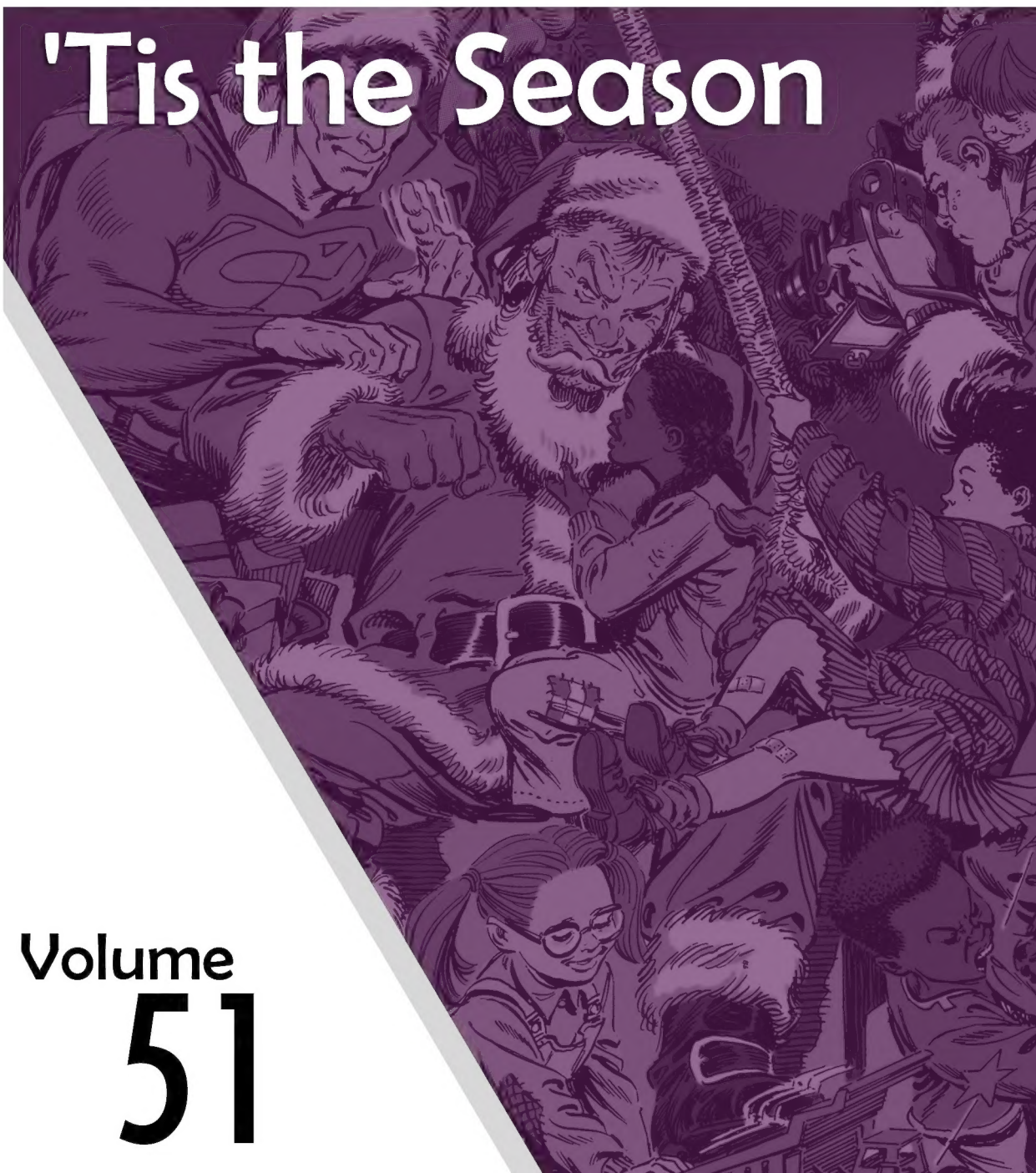
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

'Tis the Season



Volume 51

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS 'Tis the Season

51

SUPERMAN®
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE ENTIRE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT IS GOING UP IN FLAMES!
LOOKS LIKE I GOT BACK TO METROPOLIS NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!
METROPOLIS FIRE DEP
HOLY SMOKES... LOOK!

ACTION COMICS 672. December, 1991. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $12.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850.
Printed in U.S.A.
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ALL THIS... AND LEX LUTHOR II!

KRATOOM

THANK GOD, I ARRIVED IN TIME -- EVEN OVER ALL THE NOISE, I KNOW I HEARD VOICES IN HERE!

YES, THERE THEY ARE!

NO NORMAL FIREFIGHTERS COULD HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY THROUGH ALL THIS SMOKE, BUT FORTUNATELY, I...

WHAT THE DEVIL--?!

FOAM MODULE WORKING AS PER SPECS. THE FIRE IN THIS SECTION SHOULD BE EXTINGUISHED IN APPROXIMATELY SIX MINUTES.

TL-3

NO NEED TO WORRY, CITIZEN... WE'VE APPREHENDED THE FELON WHO STARTED THE FIRES...

...TEAM LUTHOR HAS EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL!

TL-7

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! YOU CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING! LET ME OUT OF THIS THING!!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
BOB McLEOD - PENCILLER
DENIS RODIER - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
DAN THORSLAND - ASSISTANT
MIKE CARLIN - FIRE CHIEF

LATER...

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M TIME-BOMB, YOU HEAR?! TIME-BOMB!!

...HE GOT LOOSE FROM HIS CELL ON STRYKER'S ISLAND DURING THE BLACKOUT!

I HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT CONTAINMENT SPHERE THEY WHIPPED UP IS DOING A GOOD JOB OF HOLDING HIM!

UH-HUH. LOOKS LIKE I WASN'T NEEDED AFTER ALL, MAGGIE.

POLICE

DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT--

--WE SURE COULD HAVE USED YOU THE PAST FEW DAYS! WHERE WERE YOU, ANYWAY? I HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU WERE MISSING WITH AMNESIA OR SOME SUCH NONSENSE!

I'M AFRAID IT WASN'T NONSENSE. I HAD A RUN-IN WITH AN OLD ENEMY THAT HAD UNFORTUNATE RESULTS FOR BOTH HIM AND ME! *

I UNDERSTAND THERE WAS SOME LOOTING?

* IN RECENT ISSUES OF ALL FOUR SUPER-TITLES!

YES... THINGS WERE PRETTY DICEY FOR A WHILE. IF NOT FOR GANGBUSTER AND THE THORN, AND--!

EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN SAWYER...

...I'M PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE FIRE HAS BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL--COURTESY OF TEAM LUTHOR AND THE LEXCORP FAMILY--

--AND MY SQUAD HAS TURNED THINGS OVER TO ENGINE COMPANY NINE!

WE'LL BE TAKING OUR LEAVE NOW... IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU.

SURE... FINE.

THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. IT WAS AN HONOR TO WORK ALONGSIDE YOUR SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT.

OH... GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, TOO, SUPERMAN.

YAY! TEAM LUTHOR!
GOD BLESS YA ALL!
THEY'RE CLEARLY THE STARS OF THE HOUR, MAGGIE...
YEAH, YOU AN' YER BOSS!
THANK THE LORD THERE'S A *LUTHOR* BACK IN BUSINESS!
HEY, *STUPOR*MAN, WHAT'RE *YOU* WAITIN' 'ROUND FOR... A PARADE?
YOU'LL HAVE A LONG WAIT!
...AND I'M NOT!
YEAH, WHERE WERE YA WHEN WE *REALLY* NEEDED YA?!
UH, LISTEN...
SPUT
...IT MIGHT BE BEST IF YOU DIDN'T HANG AROUND.
BOOO!
GOWAN, GET OUTTA HERE!
WHO NEEDS YA, YA *BUM*?
KEEP FLYIN' TILL YA RUN OUTTA SKY!
SORRY.
TAKE CARE. THIS'LL BLOW OVER.
I HOPE SO, MAGGIE... I TRULY HOPE SO.
BIG HERO... BIG DEAL!
BE COOL, MAN... AT LEAST THE POWER'S BACK ON!
YEAH, BUT NO THANKS TO *HIM*! GOD KNOWS WHAT WOULDA HAPPENED TO THIS CITY...
"...IF LUTHOR'S KID HADN'T SHOWED UP TO PUT THINGS RIGHT!"
HERE, NOW! I DIDN'T ASK YOU GENTS TOGETHER JUST TO HEAR YOU GRIZZLE AN' MOAN...
LY PLANET

... NOT WHEN THIS CITY'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER IS HANGING OUT OVER THE EDGE! THE *DAILY PLANET* IS KNOWN THE WORLD 'ROUND -- 'STREWTH, I'VE SEEN COPIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL EDITION IN THE *OUTBACK*!

I'D HATE TO SEE IT ALL COME A CROPPER.

SEEMS TO ME THAT LABOR AND MANAGEMENT HAVE BOTH BEEN SCREAMING AT EACH OTHER. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE APPROACH THIS IN A MORE REASONABLE MANNER?

REASONABLE?! LUTHOR, IF WE SUBMITTED TO MANAGEMENT'S DEMANDS, *HALF* OF OUR PEOPLE WOULD FALL BELOW THE *POVERTY LEVEL*!

IT'S AN *OUTRAGE*! WE CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH CUTS!

FRIEDMAN, THE PAPER CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT PAY AND BENEFIT CUTS. WE FACE A LOSS AS IT IS.

YOU KNOW HOW AD REVENUES HAVE FALLEN.

HOLD ON. I SEE A WAY OUT.

MR. LING, IF THE *PLANET'S* AD REVENUES ROSE TO... OH, SAY THE LEVEL THEY WERE TWO YEARS AGO, COULDN'T YOU FOREGO THE CUTS?

NO PROBLEM! AT THOSE LEVELS, WE COULD EVEN AFFORD MODEST *HIKES*!

THEN YOU'LL *HAVE* THOSE REVENUES... AS MAJORITY STOCKHOLDER OF THE LEXCORP GROUP, I GUARANTEE IT!

FANTASTIC!

THE PERFECT SOLUTION!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE REACTION ON THE PICKET LINE WHEN WE STROLL OUT ARM-IN-ARM!

NEITHER CAN I, JEB! IT'LL DO EVERYONE A WORLD OF GOOD TO SEE US BURY THE HATCHET!

EXCUSE ME... MR. WHITE?

I SUPPOSE YOU EXPECT ME TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY PAPER.

NO THANKS NECESSARY, SIR...

...AFTER ALL, MY FATHER USED TO OWN THE *PLANET*.

LEX LUTHOR USED TO OWN MOST OF THIS CITY. NOW YOU DO.

YOU KNEW HIM WELL, DIDN'T YOU?

YES, I KNEW HIM...

PERRY! SO *GOOD* TO SEE YOU BACK *WHOLE AND HEARTY*, DEAR BOY!

SAVE THE GLAD-HANDING FOR YOUR POLITICAL BUDDIES, LEX. WHAT'S THIS *BULL* ABOUT YOU SELLING THE *PLANET*?

...ASK YOUR *WIFE*.

MY DOCTORS HAD OCCASION TO EXAMINE "*YOUR*" SON JERRY... BACK WHEN HE WAS RUNNING WITH A STREET GANG...

...THERE IS *NO* DOUBT. HE IS *MY* PROGENY!

...YOU MIGHT SAY THAT I KNEW HIM ALL *TOO* WELL.

WELL, AS I SAID BEFORE, I DON'T WANT ANY HARD FEELINGS BETWEEN *US*, IF WE'RE *GOING* TO BE DOING BUSINESS--!

MR. WHITE?

MANAGEMENT CAN DO AS IT LIKES.

BUT I DON'T DO BUSINESS WITH LEXCORP.

"I DON'T BELIEVE IT..."

...YOU SHOW UP TO FIGHT A FIRE AND SOMEONE ACTUALLY THROWS AN *EGG?* AT *YOU?!*

IT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN THE TARGET OF A DISSATISFIED INDIVIDUAL, MS. LANE...

...I DOUBT THAT IT'LL BE THE LAST.

HERE, SUPERMAN, I'VE A FRESH CAPE READY FOR YOU.

THANKS, PROFESSOR.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?

WHAT *CAN* I DO? I DON'T LIKE GETTING BOOED ANY MORE THAN THE NEXT MAN-- BUT I CAN SEE THEIR SIDE OF THINGS. I WASN'T HERE TO REMEDY THE BLACK-OUT OR STOP THE LOOTING...

...I LET THEM DOWN.

THAT'S *RIDICULOUS!* YOU'D BEEN *ATTACKED* BY MR. Z... YOU HAD *AMNESIA!*

WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE FOR METROPOLIS--! *OHHH!*

IT REALLY FROSTS ME TO HEAR OF PEOPLE PUTTING YOU DOWN WHILE THEY PRACTICALLY CANONIZE THIS... THIS... LEX LUTHOR THE 2ND!

WELL, MISS LANE, YOUNG LUTHOR *DID* RESTORE THE CITY'S POWER... AFTER I INADVERTENTLY KNOCKED IT OUT.

NOW I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING! PROFESSOR HAMILTON, LEX LUTHOR ONCE TRIED TO DESTROY YOUR CAREER, TO *RUIN* YOU!

YES, BUT HIS *SON* IS WORKING TO KEEP ME FROM GOING TO JAIL FOR WRECKING THE REGIONAL POWER GRID! HE POSTED MY BAIL--*

--AND HE DIDN'T KNOW ME FROM ADAM! HE SEEMS LIKE A *GOOD* LAD... NOT AT ALL LIKE LEX THE FIRST.

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BLAME THE SON FOR THE SINS OF THE FATHER.

OH, I'M WILLING TO GIVE PEOPLE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT... *USUALLY...*

* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN # 485.

...BUT WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THIS LEX LUTHOR II? NO ONE HAD EVEN *HEARD* OF HIM UNTIL LUTHOR'S WILL WAS FOUND!

IT ALL SMELLS FISHY TO ME!

SUPERMAN, WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME A LIFT TO CLARK KENT'S PLACE?

NOT AT ALL.

YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY SO, MISS LANE. YOUNG LEX IS REALLY QUITE PERSONABLE... YOU'LL SEE!

SURE.

'BYE, PROFESSOR.

TRUSTING SOUL, ISN'T HE?

ALMOST TO A FAULT... BUT HE MADE A *GOOD* POINT, LOIS. FEW HAD WORSE DEALINGS WITH LEX LUTHOR THAN I DID--!

WORSE DEALINGS?! HE TRIED TO HAVE YOU *KILLED*--I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES!

YES, BUT THE PUBLIC KNEW HIM MAINLY AS AN EMPLOYER, A *BENEFACTOR*! HIS SON MAY NOT EVEN SUSPECT WHAT KIND OF MAN HE REALLY WAS.

I'LL ADMIT THAT I'M UNEASY WITH THE THOUGHT OF A NEW LUTHOR IN TOWN...

...BUT HOW CAN WE BLAME HIM FOR HIS FATHER'S CRIMES?

HOLEE--!

NO PARKING

THANKS AGAIN, SUPERMAN!

MY PLEASURE, MISS LANE! GIVE MY BEST TO KENT!

WOW... SUPERMAN! HEY, LADY, YOU *KNOW* HIM?

UH-HUH.

BETTER THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE...

"... I KNOW WHERE HE *LIVES*! I WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO CARRY ON THIS CHARADE, ESPECIALLY FOR DEAR SOULS LIKE EMIL HAMILTON --

"HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY TURNED AROUND AND HEADED BACK TO THIS BUILDING...

"... FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW.

"AS FAST AS HE IS, HE'LL CERTAINLY GET TO HIS THIRD-FLOOR APARTMENT--

"--BEFORE I CAN!"

NOK NOK

JUST A MOMENT!

"--BUT NEITHER OF US WOULD HAVE A SECOND'S PEACE IF THE WORLD KNEW THAT MY *FIANCÉ* IS REALLY SUPERMAN!

HI, HON!

'AFTERNOON, CLARK.

CARE TO CONTINUE OUR LITTLE DISCUSSION?

NOW, LOIS--!

DON'T "NOW, LOIS" ME! SURE, MAYBE "LEX JUNIOR" IS AS PURE AS THE DRIVEN SNOW--

--BUT IF HE'S ANYTHING LIKE HIS OLD MAN, HE'S *POISON!* I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO TAKE ANY UNNECESSARY RISKS UNTIL WE KNOW MORE!

ME TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS?! *YOU'RE* A FINE ONE TO TALK--!

HOLD THAT THOUGHT!

RRRING

PERRY! HI, HOW ARE--? WHAT? THE STRIKE'S OVER?!

LET ME TALK TO HIM!

JUST A MOMENT, LOIS IS HERE...

ARE YOU BACK IN CHARGE AT THE *PLANET*, CHIEF--OR IS FOSWELL STILL PLAYING EDITOR?

THAT IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION--

--BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I HAVE A PERSONAL ASSIGNMENT FOR BOTH OF YOU...

GENTLEMEN...

LUTHOR CENTER

...I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND!

LEX

LL SHOP

"...METROPOLIS HAS SEEN SOME HARD TIMES, BUT WE HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO TURN THINGS AROUND! WE CAN MAKE THIS CITY *BLOOM* AGAIN!

I'VE ALREADY AUTHORIZED THE *LUTHOR FOUNDATION* TO DISBURSE AID TO SMALL BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE HIT BY LOOTING--

--BUT WE HAVE *TO DO* MORE THAN THAT! METROPOLIS NEEDS *JOBS*, AND WE MUST FILL THAT NEED!

NOW LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY, LEX...

...WE ARE, AFTER ALL, STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN. THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME TO GO THROWING MONEY AROUND!

I DON'T INTEND TO THROW MONEY ANYWHERE, MARKHAM... I INTEND TO *INVEST* IT IN THE CITY'S FUTURE! LEXCORP HAS CAPITAL WE HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED!

LEX, YOU'RE AN ACTIVE YOUNG MAN--AND THAT'S GOOD--BUT THERE'S A TIME FOR CAUTION--!

CAUTION?! IF MY FATHER HAD BEEN CAUTIOUS, THERE NEVER WOULDA BEEN A LEXCORP! WHEN HE WAS MY AGE--!

WHEN HE WAS YOUR AGE, TIMES WERE DIFFERENT! YOU MAY HAVE INHERITED YOUR FATHER'S HOLDINGS, BUT AS FAR AS BUSINESS IS CONCERNED, YOU'RE STILL WET BEHIND THE EARS!

I CAME UP THROUGH THE RANKS WITH YOUR FATHER... AND *YOU*, YOUNG MAN, ARE *NOT* YOUR FATHER!

WELL, I CAN'T DISPUTE *THAT*, NOW CAN I?

IT'S GETTING LATE, GENTS. WHAT SAY WE ADJOURN FOR DINNER AND TAKE THIS UPON THE MORROW?

I TOLD YOU... HE'S TOO YOUNG TO BE CHAIRMAN!

BUT HE HAS THE SHARES...!

OH, MR. MARKHAM, COULD I HAVE A BIT A' YOUR TIME?

THE KID LOOKED PRETTY STEAMED FOR A MOMENT THERE, DIDN'T HE?

YEAH, BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS FATHER'S TEMPER - LOOK HOW CONCILIATORY HE IS TO MARKHAM.

I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

G*%!! MARKHAM, ALWAYS JOCKEYING FOR POSITION! WHAT DO YOU BET, HE COMES OUT ON TOP IN THIS?

H-H-HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT *THAT*? IT HAPPENED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN! NOBODY KNEW ABOUT THAT... EXCEPT FOR...

...MY FATHER.

AND HIS KNOWLEDGE WAS PART OF MY LEGACY. I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR SECRET WAS SAFE WITH ME.

AFTER ALL, WE'RE MATES NOW, AREN'T WE? WE CAN COUNT ON EACH OTHER, CAN'T WE?

AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS FINALLY FREE OF LUTHOR'S HOLD! I WOULD'VE BET ANYTHING THAT HE'D TAKEN WHAT HE KNEW TO THE GRAVE!

I WONDER WHAT ELSE HE PASSED ON TO THE BOY?

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT YOU'VE RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW FROM MS. LOIS LANE OF THE *DAILY PLANET*.

HAVE I NOW? SPLENDID!

TELL HER, "YES!"

AUSTRALIA.

NINE TIME ZONES AWAY.

CANBERRA IS ESPECIALLY BEAUTIFUL THIS TIME OF YEAR...

...TOO BAD THAT I CAN'T TAKE TIME TO SIGHT-SEE.

MY CONTACT SAID TO MEET HER OUTSIDE THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL GALLERY--

--AND THERE SHE IS! BETTER FIND A SPOT TO CHANGE QUICKLY...

...I SHOULDN'T KEEP AN OLD FRIEND WAITING!

G'DAY, MAUREEN! LONG TIME, NO SEE!

EH? *KENT!*

I NEVER EVEN HEARD YOU APPROACH -- YOU MUST WALK LIKE A CAT!

I TRY TO STAY LIGHT ON MY FEET. YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.

DO YOU HAVE THE INFO THAT I CALLED ABOUT?

YES, TUCKED AWAY IN THIS "GUIDEBOOK." BUT I'LL WARN YOU, IT'S BLESSED LITTLE.

THIS IS *ALL* THAT THE A.S.I.O.* HAS BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT ABOUT LEX THE SECOND?!

THAT'S IT! EVERYTHING WE'VE UNCOVERED SO FAR--

* AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION.

--SUPPORTS THE PRESS RELEASES LEXCORP HAS PUT OUT. WE *HAVE* MANAGED TO LOCATE THE SITE OF THE HOUSE THAT JUNIOR GREW UP IN.

TELL ME, IS IT TRUE WHAT I HEAR? YOU'RE REALLY *ENGAGED?*

HMM? OH...YES.

PITY.

I HAVE A GOOD DEAL OF FOOT-WORK AHEAD OF ME...

"...I WONDER HOW LOIS IS MAKING OUT AT HER END?"

RIGHT THIS WAY, MA'AM...

MS. LANE, MAY I PRESENT MR. LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND... SIR, MS. LOIS LANE.

HMM, MORE CASUAL THAN THE FIRST MR. LUTHOR... FOR MY EARLIEST INTERVIEW WITH *HIM*, WE BOTH WORE FORMAL WEAR!

HOW DO YOU DO?

MS. LANE, DO COME IN! HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MEETING IN THIS CAVERN OF A ROOM... I'M AFRAID IT'S ONE OF THE SMALLER ONES HERE.

I'M STILL GETTING USED TO THIS... OPULENCE. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE SIZE OF THE WATER CLOSETS!

I MIGHT. YOUR FATHER ENJOYED HIS LUXURIES.

I CAN BELIEVE THAT LUTHOR WAS HIS FATHER. HE HAS BETTER HAIR... HE'S A LITTLE TALLER, A LOT YOUNGER, AND IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE... BUT THE FACIAL RESEMBLANCE IS DEFINITELY THERE.

WELL, I'M VERY FLATTERED THAT YOU WISHED TO SPEAK WITH ME.

LET'S SIT DOWN, SHALL WE? MAY I OFFER YOU TEA AND BISCUITS?

YES, THANK YOU. DO YOU MIND IF I RECORD THIS?

EH? NO, NOT AT ALL.

VEGEMITE

NOW THEN...

...WHAT CAN I BE TELLING YOU?

MY READERS WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THE MAN WHO SAVED METROPOLIS FROM THE BLACKOUT. I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE RAISED BY FOSTER PARENTS? YOUR BIO DOESN'T SAY MUCH ABOUT THEM.

THEY WERE PRIVATE FOLK, MS. LANE...

"...LOVELY FOLK. THEY RAN A SMALL SHEEP STATION... WHAT YOU'D CALL A RANCH.

"I LOST THEM BOTH TO A TERRIBLE FIRE...

"... I'M TOLD IT SWEPT THROUGH THE HOUSE SO SWIFTLY... NEITHER OF 'EM EVER HAD A CHANCE.

"I WAS OFF ON WALKABOUT WHEN IT HAPPENED...

"... I CAME HOME TO FIND I HAD NO HOME... NO PARENTS... LITTLE MORE THAN THE CLOTHES ON MY BACK TO MY NAME.

"AND SOON AFTER THAT, I LEARNED THAT EVEN MY *NAME* WASN'T MINE... NOT THE NAME I'D BEEN TOLD WAS MINE!

"LOOKING BACK, I DIDN'T TAKE AFTER EITHER A' THE PEOPLE I THOUGHT WERE MY PARENTS.

"THEY TOLD ME THAT I GOT THE RED HAIR FROM A GRANDFATHER. LORD, BUT I STILL MISS THEM.

"WHERE WAS I? AH... AFTER I WAS 'ORPHANED,' A MAN FROM LEXCORP SCOOPED ME UP--"

--AND BROUGHT ME BEFORE MR. LEX LUTHOR. I THOUGHT THAT HE WANTED TO BUY MY PARENTS' LAND. TURNED OUT THAT HE *ALREADY* OWNED IT... THAT MY FOLKS'D BEEN IN HIS EMPLOY AND THAT *HE* WAS MY REAL FATHER!

AND HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

HOW WOULD ANYONE FEEL? THERE I WAS, ALL OF 16, AND SOME YANK DEVELOPER SHOWS ME PROOF THAT HE'S MY OLD MAN! IT WAS BLOODY *INSANE*!

BUT HE'D HAD ME RAISED ON THE QUIET TO PROTECT ME FROM HIS ENEMIES... SEEMS HE HAD A FEW.

WHAT ABOUT THE FACT THAT HE'D NEVER MARRIED YOUR MOTHER?

I DUNNO... SCANDAL NEVER SEEMED TO BOTHER HIM. HE WAS A STRANGE MAN. MIND YOU, HE WAS ALWAYS *GOOD* TO ME... TAUGHT ME A LOT... BUT, WELL...

...I'VE BEEN LEARNING SOME NASTY THINGS ABOUT THIS BUSINESS AND HOW MY FATHER RAN IT. IT'S ALL A BIT... UNSETTLING.

UNSETTLING?! IF THAT'S THE STRONGEST THING YOU CAN SAY ABOUT LEX LUTHOR, YOU DON'T KNOW A THIRD OF IT!

LEX LUTHOR WAS ONE OF THE *SLIMIEST*, VILEST CREATURES EVER TO WALK UPRIGHT!

MS. LANE! YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!

"OH YES I CAN... ONE OF HIS SCHEMES LEFT A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE A *PARAPLEGIC!* AND WHEN ONE OF LUTHOR'S RESEARCH LABS RESTORED HIS ABILITY TO WALK--

"--IT WAS JUST PART OF A PLAN TO TURN HIM INTO AN ARMORED *HIT MAN!*

"UNDERSTAND... TO MOST PEOPLE IN METROPOLIS, LUTHOR WAS THEIR EMPLOYER... BUT WHAT HE REALLY WANTED WAS TO BE THEIR LORD AND MASTER!

"SOME SAW THAT, BUT FEW HAD THE GUTS TO STAND UP TO HIM!

"ONE PERSON WHO DID WAS *SUPERMAN*. ONCE HE ARRIVED, LUTHOR WAS NO LONGER THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN METROPOLIS.

"NATURALLY, LUTHOR COULDN'T STAND FOR *THAT!* AGAIN AND AGAIN, HE TRIED TO HAVE SUPERMAN KILLED!"

"KILLED?! MS. LANE--!"

"YES, AND EACH TIME, SUPERMAN WON OUT! BUT EACH TIME, LUTHOR HAD SOME SORT OF *ALIBI*, EACH TIME HE ESCAPED BEING BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. AND MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN SUSPECT WHAT A... A *MONSTER* HE WAS!"

THAT'S THE REAL TRAGEDY... PEOPLE HAVE ALL BUT ERECTED SHRINES TO YOUR FATHER, AND HE WOULD HAVE BOUGHT AND SOLD THOSE PEOPLE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!

HE WOULD USE ANYONE AND EVERYONE TO GET WHAT HE WANTED... AND HE'D STOP AT *NOTHING!* WHY, MY OWN *MOTHER* WAS--!

MS. LANE... PLEASE...

...STOP! I-I BELIEVE YOU!

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID, EVERYTHING I'VE DISCOVERED... MAKES ME BELIEVE IT'S TRUE!

LORD, IT'S LIKE FINDING OUT YOUR FATHER IS BLOODY HITLER!

I... UH... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

MS. LANE, I KNOW I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ASK THIS... IN FACT, AFTER WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME...

... I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU IF YOU SPIT IN MY FACE... BUT IF YOU COULD FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO HELP ME...

"... I WANT TO TRY TO CONTACT SUPERMAN. I FEEL I MUST SEE HIM ... IF HE'LL CONSENT TO MEET WITH ME..."

JUST AS PROMISED... HE'S WAITING ON THE TOWER'S HELIPAD SET-BACK... ALL ALONE.

OR IS HE?

IF OLD LEX HAD SET UP THIS MEETING, I'D EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ARMED BODYGUARDS TO A FULLY ARMORED TASK FORCE LYING IN WAIT, JUST OUT OF SIGHT...

...BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANYONE--OR ANYTHING--ELSE LURKING NEARBY.

NOT A TRACE OF NEW LEAD SHIELDING TO BLOCK MY X-RAY VIEW OF THE TOWER.

SUPERMAN...

NOTHING AT ALL UNUSUAL ABOUT YOUNG LEX EITHER...

...HE'S CLEAN, RIGHT DOWN TO HIS FINGERTIPS!

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, LUTHOR?

YOU...YOU REALLY *ARE* SUPERMAN..., ABLE TO FLY, AND ALL! YES, I...

...I KNOW THERE WAS BAD BLOOD BETWEEN YOU AND MY FATHER, AND...

...I'D UNDERSTAND IF YOU'D HAVE TROUBLE WITH THIS, BUT...

...WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, I WANT TO PUT AN END TO THAT CHAPTER.

LUTHOR... I CAN'T VERY WELL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FATHER'S ACTIONS.

THANK YOU, SIR! I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME. I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY SHAKING HANDS WITH SUPERMAN!

I-I'D BE HONORED IF YOU'D CALL ME LEX.

ALL RIGHT... LEX. MS. LANE TOLD ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR FOSTER PARENTS--!

OH, YES! IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTER SHE LEFT THAT I RECALLED...

...THIS PHOTO OF MY FOSTER MUM. DO YOU THINK MS. LANE WOULD WANT IT FOR HER ARTICLE?

I'D WANT TO MAKE A COPY... IT'S ALL I HAVE LEFT OF HER.

NOT NECESSARILY. I WAS IN AUSTRALIA YESTERDAY, HELPING OUT A FRIEND...

... AND CAME ACROSS *THIS* BURIED IN THE RUINS OF AN OLD FARM HOUSE.

GOOD LORD... THE FAMILY PORTRAIT!

THIS WAS TAKEN... BARELY A YEAR... 'FORE THE FIRE.

I'D THOUGHT IT LOST FORE'ER.

GOD BLESS YOU, SUPERMAN! GOD BLESS YOU! I CAN NEVER REPAY YOU FOR THIS... NEVER...

... AND THAT'S THE STORY, PERRY. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO UNCOVER ANYTHING THAT CONTRADICTS THE FACE YOUNG LEX HAS SHOWN TO THE PUBLIC.

THEN... HE'S EVERYTHING THAT HE APPEARS TO BE?

AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL! THE PHOTOGRAPH WHICH SUPERMAN UNEARTHED IN AUSTRALIA WAS OVER FIVE YEARS OLD AND THE TIMBER IT WAS UNDER HADN'T BEEN TOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS IN AT LEAST THAT LONG.

I WAS SKEPTICAL AT FIRST, TOO, CHIEF ... THE WHOLE "SECRET HEIR" SCENARIO IS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A *SOAP OPERA*--

--BUT IT'S ALSO EXACTLY THE KIND OF OPERATION THAT LUTHOR-THE-ELDER WOULD'VE ENGINEERED.

YES, BUT THIS TIME, HE MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE. THE COUPLE HE PICKED TO RAISE HIS SON DID TOO GOOD A JOB. LEX TAKES AFTER *THEM*...

...*NOT* AFTER LUTHOR. HE SEEMS GENUINELY APPALLED BY WHAT HIS FATHER DID... EVEN SUPERMAN'S CONVINCED OF THAT!

MMPH... I SHOULD FIND THAT REASSURING, BUT PART OF ME STILL WISHES THAT YOU'D FOUND SOME DIRT ON THE LITTLE SO-AND-SO!

HATE TO THINK WHAT THAT SAYS ABOUT ME.

STILL AND ALL... I GUESS THAT I HAVE NO RATIONAL REASON TO KEEP HATING HIS GUTS.

LORD KNOWS, I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE HELD PERSONALLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANYTHING DONE BY MY FAMILY.

I'LL BE BACK AT THE *PLANET*, COME MONDAY. I GUESS IT'S TIME TO SWALLOW MY PRIDE--

--AN WRITE AN EDITORIAL IN PRAISE OF YOUNG LEX LUTHOR.

SIR--

--YOU SENT FOR ME?

HAPPERSEN, COME RIGHT IN!

I MUST COMPLIMENT YOU AND YOUR TEAM ON THE RE-WIRING OF PERRY WHITE'S TELEPHONE.

EXCELLENT FIDELITY. I *AM* CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT YOUR HANDIWORK IS UNDETECTABLE?

KLIK

COMPLETELY, SIR. WE EMPLOYED A SPECIAL MICROWIRE WOVEN INTO THE INSULATION OF STANDARD GRADE--!

YES, YES... NO NEED TO TROT OUT THE DETAILED SCHEMATICS, HAPPERSEN. I TRUST YOU IN THESE MATTERS.

OTHERWISE, SOMEONE ELSE WOULD BE IN YOUR POSITION.

AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE REASON TO CELEBRATE!

CIGAR?

THANK YOU, SIR, BUT I DON'T SMOKE.

AH, OF COURSE. NOT YOUR VICE.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I INDULGE *MINE*.

NOT AT ALL, SIR. ALLOW ME!

WHY, THANK YOU, SYDNEY. IT'S A TERRIBLE HABIT, I KNOW; *PUFF*; BUT I'M A YOUNG MAN; *PUFF*; I CAN AFFORD AN OCCASIONAL INDULGENCE!

LIFE, AFTER ALL, IS SO BLAND WITHOUT ANY VICES.

AND I HAVE A VERY, VERY LONG LIFE AHEAD OF ME!

ALREADY, I HAVE ACHIEVED UNPARALLELED SUCCESS, HAPPERSEN. ALL OF METROPOLIS SPEAKS MY NAME WITH AWE AND REVERENCE...

...AND NOT EVEN SUPERMAN DOUBTS MY SINCERITY!

THEY BOUGHT IT! ALL OF THEM!

HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER!

WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT YOU DO NOT MISS OUR NEXT ISSUE...

"FRIENDS IN NEED!"

STORMY WEATHER
YOUR SPANKING, BRAND-NEW POWERS MIGHT LET YOU GO ONE ON ONE WITH SUPERMAN...
...BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BE FASTER THAN THAT IF YOU HOPE TO TAKE ON ME!
SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
JON BOGDANOVE LAYOUT ART
DENNIS JANKE FINISHED ART
ALBERT DE GUZMAN LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST
DAN THORSLAND ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL 7. January, 1992. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER Send address changes to SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL, DC Comics Subscriptions, PO. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $12.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only.
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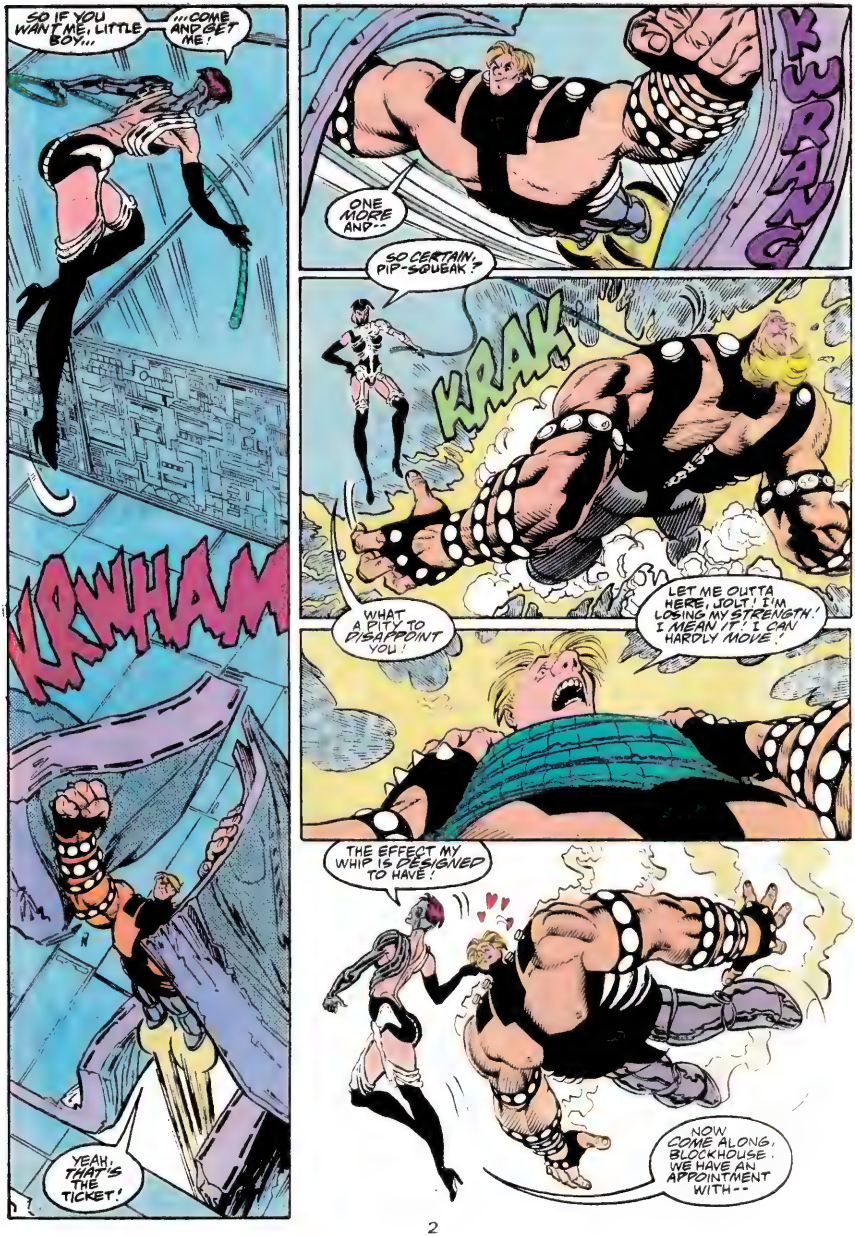
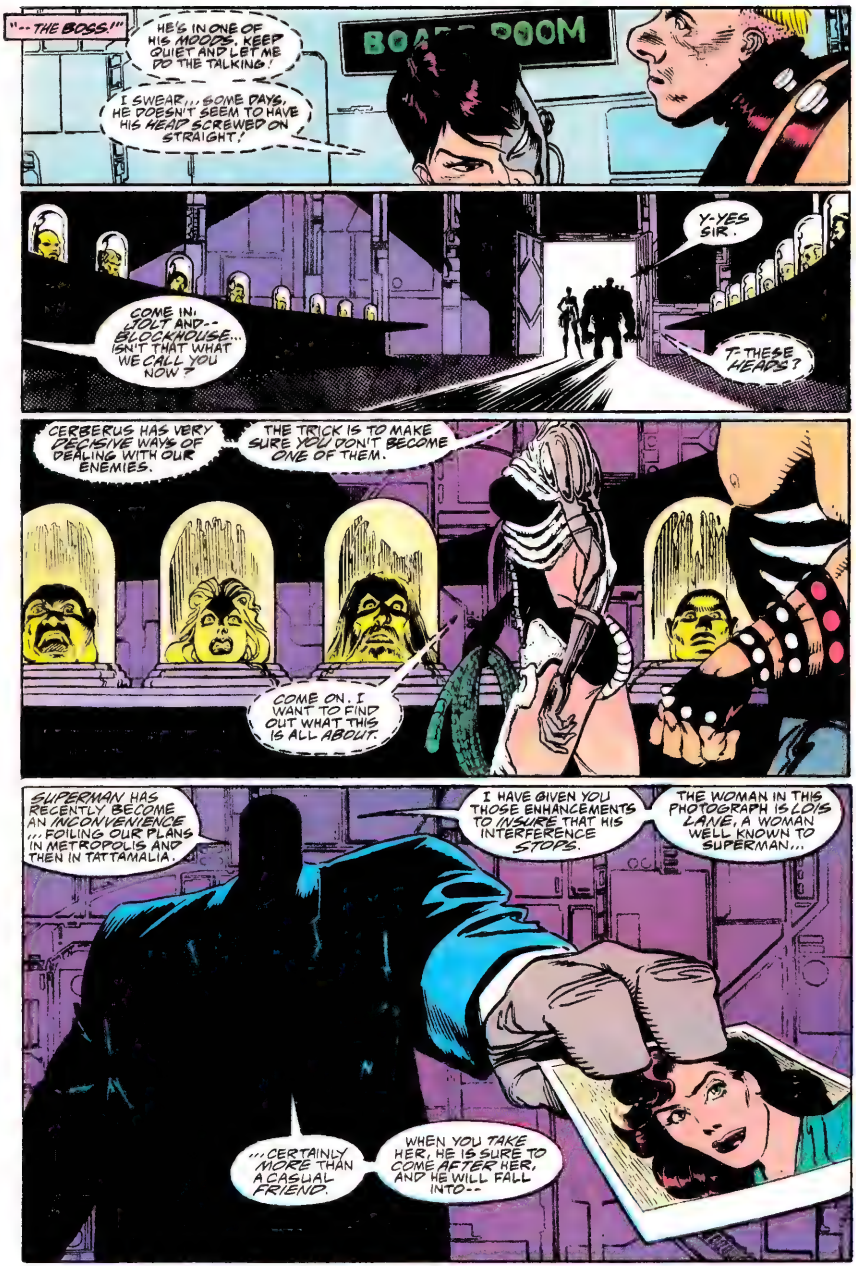
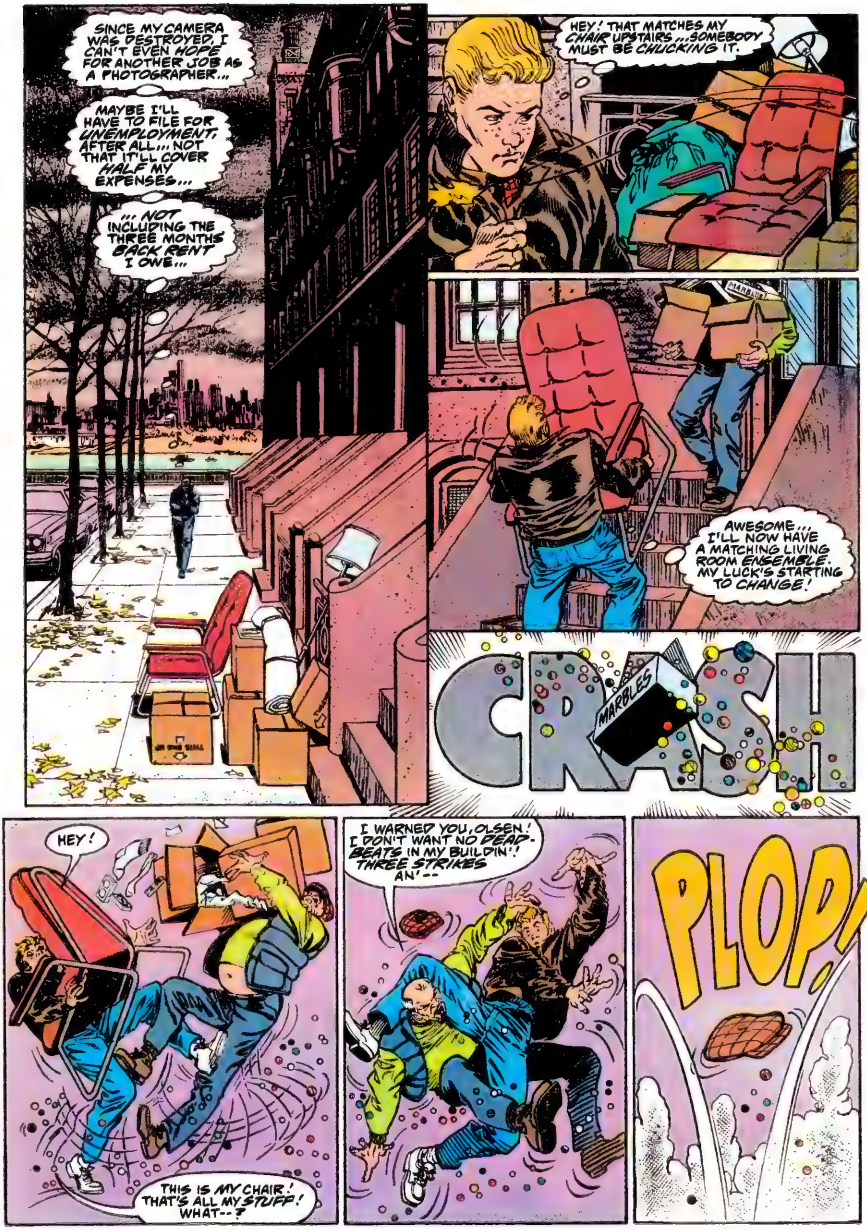

SO IF YOU WANT ME, LITTLE BOY...
...COME AND GET ME!
KRWHAM
YEAH, THAT'S THE TICKET!
KWANG
ONE MORE AND--
SO CERTAIN, PIP-SQUEAK?
KRAK
WHAT A PITY TO DISAPPOINT YOU!
LET ME OUTTA HERE, JOLT! I'M LOSING MY STRENGTH! I MEAN IT! I CAN HARDLY MOVE!
THE EFFECT MY WHIP IS DESIGNED TO HAVE!
NOW COME ALONG, BLOCKHOUSE. WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH--

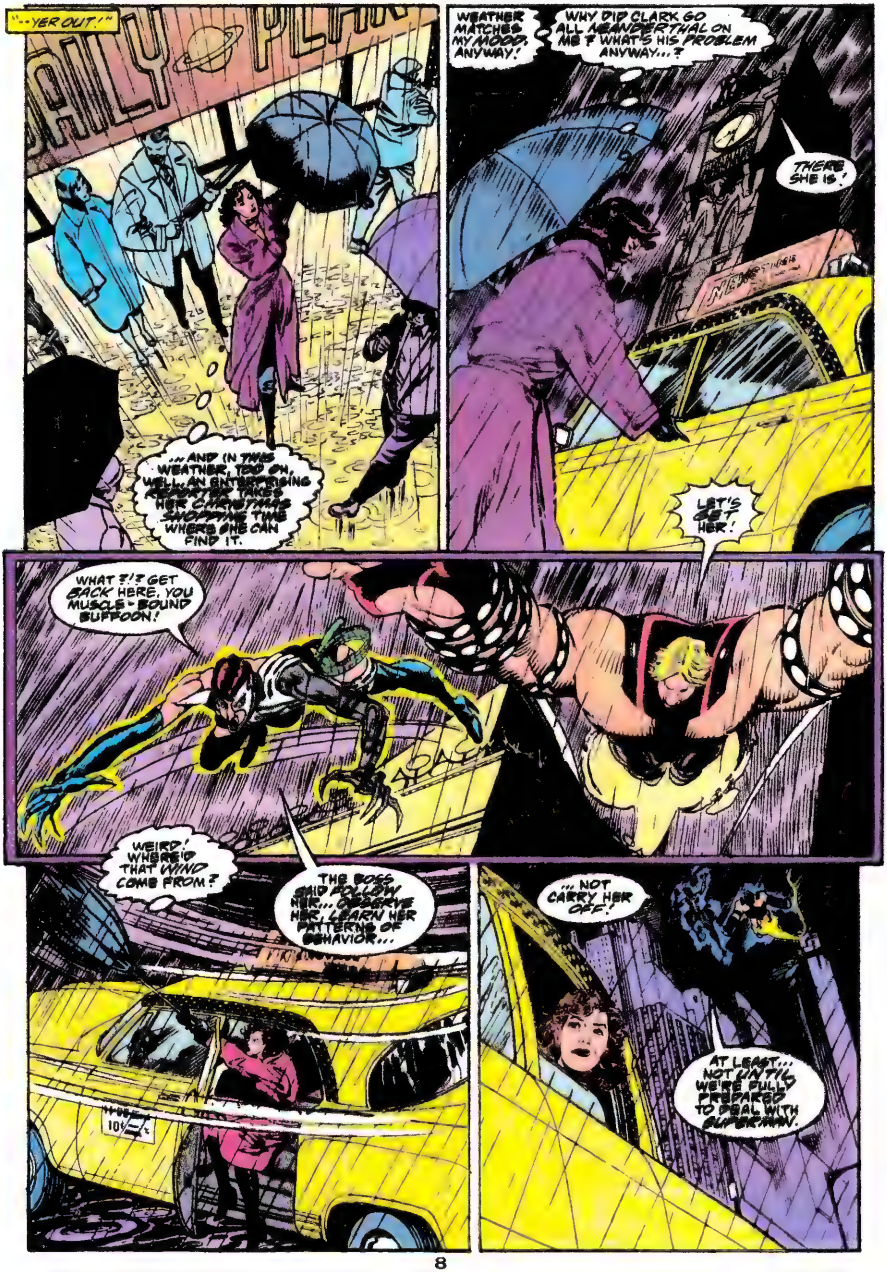

"--THE BOSS!"
HE'S IN ONE OF HIS MOODS. KEEP QUIET AND LET ME DO THE TALKING!
I SWEAR... SOME DAYS, HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE HIS HEAD SCREWED ON STRAIGHT!
Y-YES SIR.
COME IN. JOLT AND--BLOCKHOUSE... ISN'T THAT WHAT WE CALL YOU NOW?
T-THESE HEADS?
CERBERUS HAS VERY DECISIVE WAYS OF DEALING WITH OUR ENEMIES.
THE TRICK IS TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T BECOME ONE OF THEM.
COME ON. I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.
SUPERMAN HAS RECENTLY BECOME AN INCONVENIENCE ... FOILING OUR PLANS IN METROPOLIS AND THEN IN TATTAMALIA.
I HAVE GIVEN YOU THOSE ENHANCEMENTS TO INSURE THAT HIS INTERFERENCE STOPS.
THE WOMAN IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS LOIS LANE, A WOMAN WELL KNOWN TO SUPERMAN...
...CERTAINLY MORE THAN A CASUAL FRIEND.
WHEN YOU TAKE HER, HE IS SURE TO COME AFTER HER, AND HE WILL FALL INTO--

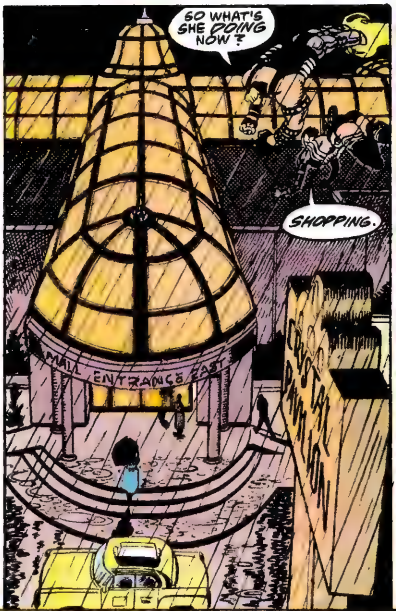
"-- THE TRAP I HAVE DEVISED FOR HIM."
Daily Planet
- YOUR GREAT METROPOLITAN NEWS PAPER
HEY! DERE HE IS! ONE A DEM SCABS!
GOT A LOTTA NERVE SHOWIN' UP ON OUR FIRST DAY. BACK, CHUMP!
THEY SAID... WE SHOULD COME HERE... THEY'D GIVE US FIRST CRACK IF THERE WERE ANY OPENINGS...
WE'LL GIVE YOU FIRST CRACK ALL RIGHT!
BASH!
KRAK!
HEY! STOP THAT!
WELL, IF IT AIN'T MR. ANTI-UNION KENT!
DIDN'T SEE YOU ON THE PICKET LINES, SCAB LOVER!
YEAH, C'MON, GUYS--WE'LL SHOW HIM!
US UNION GUYS STICK TOGETHER! OR ELSE!

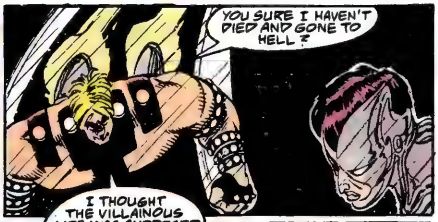
OW! MY KNUCKLES!
WHAT IS IT WIT' HIM--?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. PILE OFF! RECESS IS OVER!
MR. KENT HAS THE CONSTITUTIONALLY GIVEN RIGHT TO BELIEVE AS HE CHOOSES.
AND IF HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKERS SHOULD ORGANIZE ... HE MAY NOT WANT TO WALK THE PICKET LINE.
PAT! PAT!
ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DIDN'T CROSS IT EITHER.
NOW, LET'S HAVE THIS RETURN TO WORK BE PEACEFUL.
KENT WAS PRETTY ACTIVE REPORTING FOR THE WIRE SERVICES DURING THE STRIKE.
WOULDN'T WANT THE DAILY PLANET'S OWN WORKERS TO BECOME GRIST FOR HIS MILL.
HE'S RIGHT! COME ON!
LOOK, FRIEDMAN, I DON'T NEED YOUR SUPPOSED HELP...
... EITHER IN A FIGHT OR IN EXPLAINING WHAT I DO AND DON'T BELIEVE.
COULDN'T HAVE TOLD THAT BY LOOKING AT YOU!

CLARK WASN'T ON THE PICKET LINE BECAUSE HE WAS STOPPING ANGSTROM, AMONG OTHER VILLAINS...
...NOT TO MENTION HIS AMNESIA. BUT WHAT'S HE GONNA DO... SAY, "HEY, I COULDN'T WALK, I'M SUPERMAN, I HAD TO FLY!"?
BUT THANKS TO MY BET WITH HIM* THERE'S ONE OPENING...
... AND I'M GONNA TAKE IT!
JEB!
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE PRINTING PLANT, LOIS? YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, RIGHT? I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES...
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING AT?
MOI?
*IN MAN OF STEEL #4.
CLARK WAS BUSTING INTERNS, WHICH WAS A LOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN CARRYING AROUND A SIGN TO IMPRESS PLANET MANAGEMENT.
LOOK, LOIS, I CAN FIGHT MY OWN BATTLES, ESPECIALLY AGAINST THIS CLOWN.
I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN!
NOT THE WAY YOU REALLY WANT TO. SUPERMAN CAN'T BUST HEADS ON A WHIM.
YOU TWO ACT LIKE A COUPLE OF GORILLAS EVERY TIME YOU GET AROUND EACH OTHER.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, ANYWAY? TESTOSTERONE POISONING?
NOW WAIT A MINUTE...
SHE'S ON A ROLL, KENT. IT'LL TAKE HER MORE THAN A MINUTE.
ALL I CAN SAY IS, BETTER YOU THAN ME.

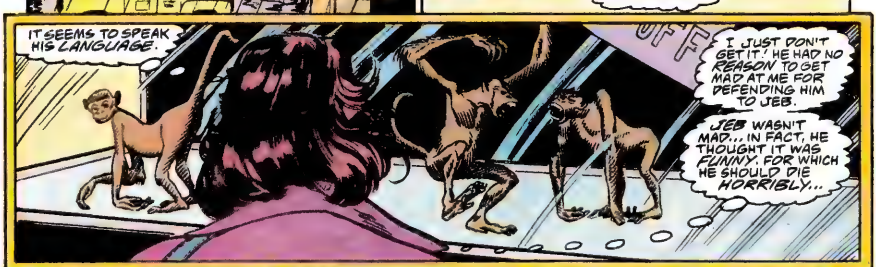

SINCE MY CAMERA WAS DESTROYED, I CAN'T EVEN HOPE FOR ANOTHER JOB AS A PHOTOGRAPHER...
MAYBE I'LL HAVE TO FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT, AFTER ALL... NOT THAT IT'LL COVER HALF MY EXPENSES...
... NOT INCLUDING THE THREE MONTHS BACK RENT I OWE...
HEY! THAT MATCHES MY CHAIR UPSTAIRS... SOMEBODY MUST BE CHUCKING IT.
AWESOME... I'LL NOW HAVE A MATCHING LIVING ROOM ENSEMBLE. MY LUCK'S STARTING TO CHANGE!
CRASH
MARBLES
HEY!
THIS IS MY CHAIR! THAT'S ALL MY STUFF! WHAT--?
I WARNED YOU, OLSEN! I DON'T WANT NO BEAD-BEATS IN MY BUILDIN'! THREE STRIKES AN'--
PLOP!

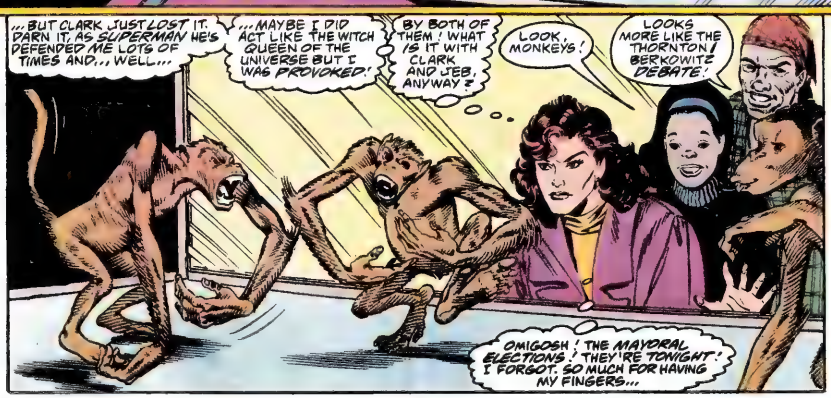

"...YER OUT."
...AND IN THIS WEATHER, TOO! OH, WELL... AN ENTERPRISING REPORTER TAKES HER CHANCES AND SCOOPING THE SHOOTING TIME WHERE SHE CAN FIND IT.
WEATHER MATCHES MY MOOD, ANYWAY.
WHY DID CLARK GO ALL ARMAGEDDON ON ME? WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM ANYWAY...?
THERE SHE IS.
LET'S GET HER!
WHAT?! GET BACK HERE, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND BUFFOON!
WEIRD! WHERE'D THAT WIND COME FROM?
THE BOSS SAID FOLLOW HER... OBSERVE HER. LEARN HER PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR...
...NOT CARRY HER OFF!
AT LEAST... NOT UNTIL WE'RE FULLY PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SUPERMAN.

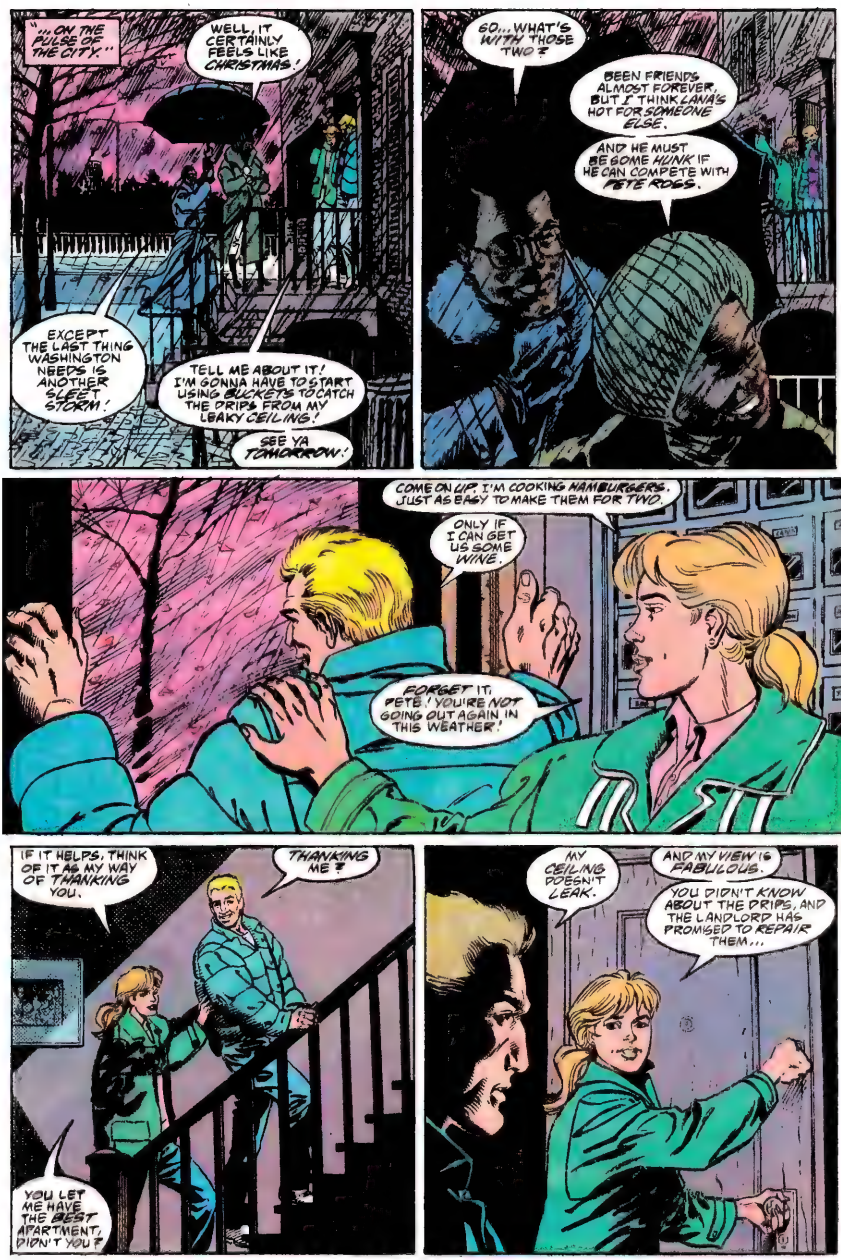

SO WHAT'S SHE DOING NOW?
SHOPPING.
MAIL ENTRANCE EAST

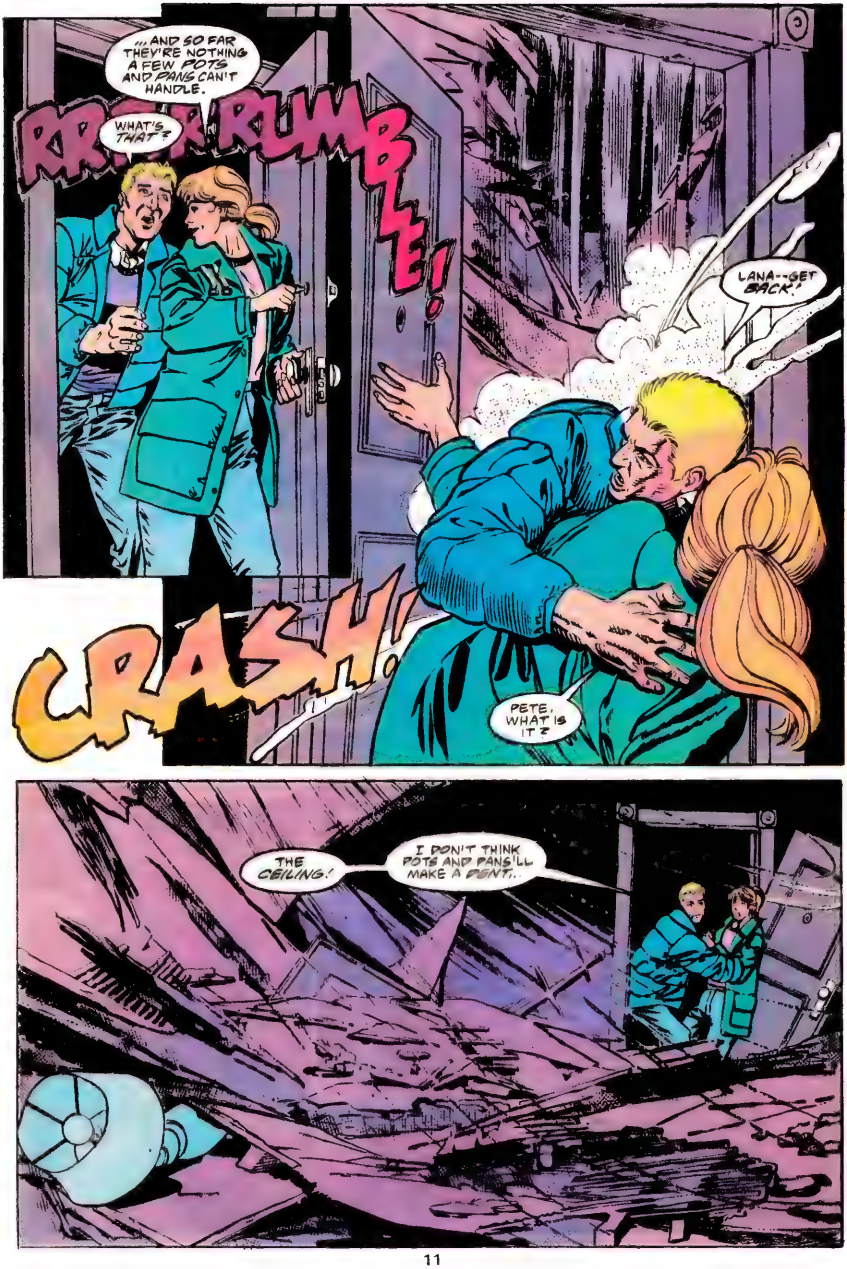

YOU SURE I HAVEN'T DIED AND GONE TO HELL?

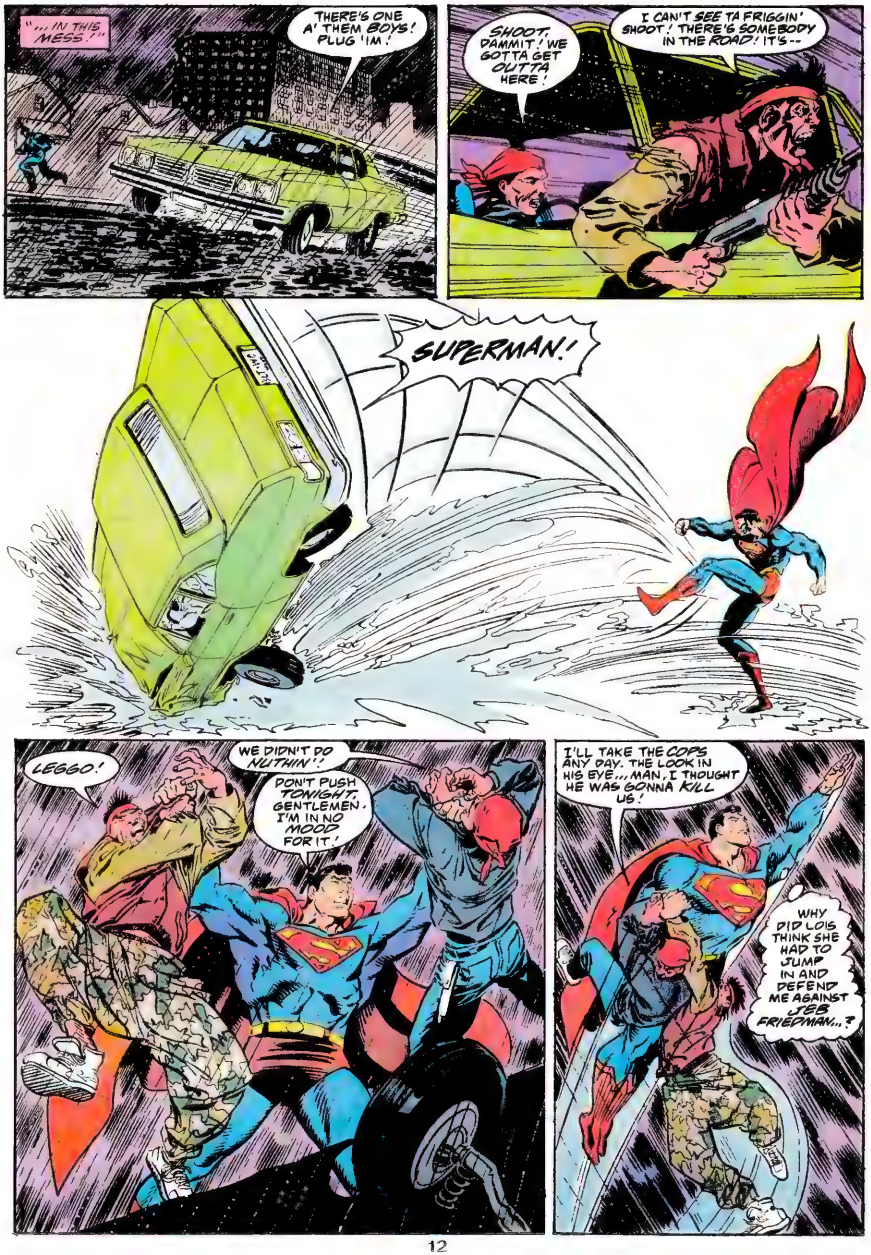
I THOUGHT THE VILLAINOUS LIFE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE EXCITING!
GOT THE SUIT FOR MOM... DIDN'T HAVE THE EXERCISE BIKE I WANT FOR DAD...
CRITTERS 'R' US
PETS · FISH · SUPPL
SALE
OH, FUNNY! MAYBE I SHOULD GET CLARK ONE OF THOSE.

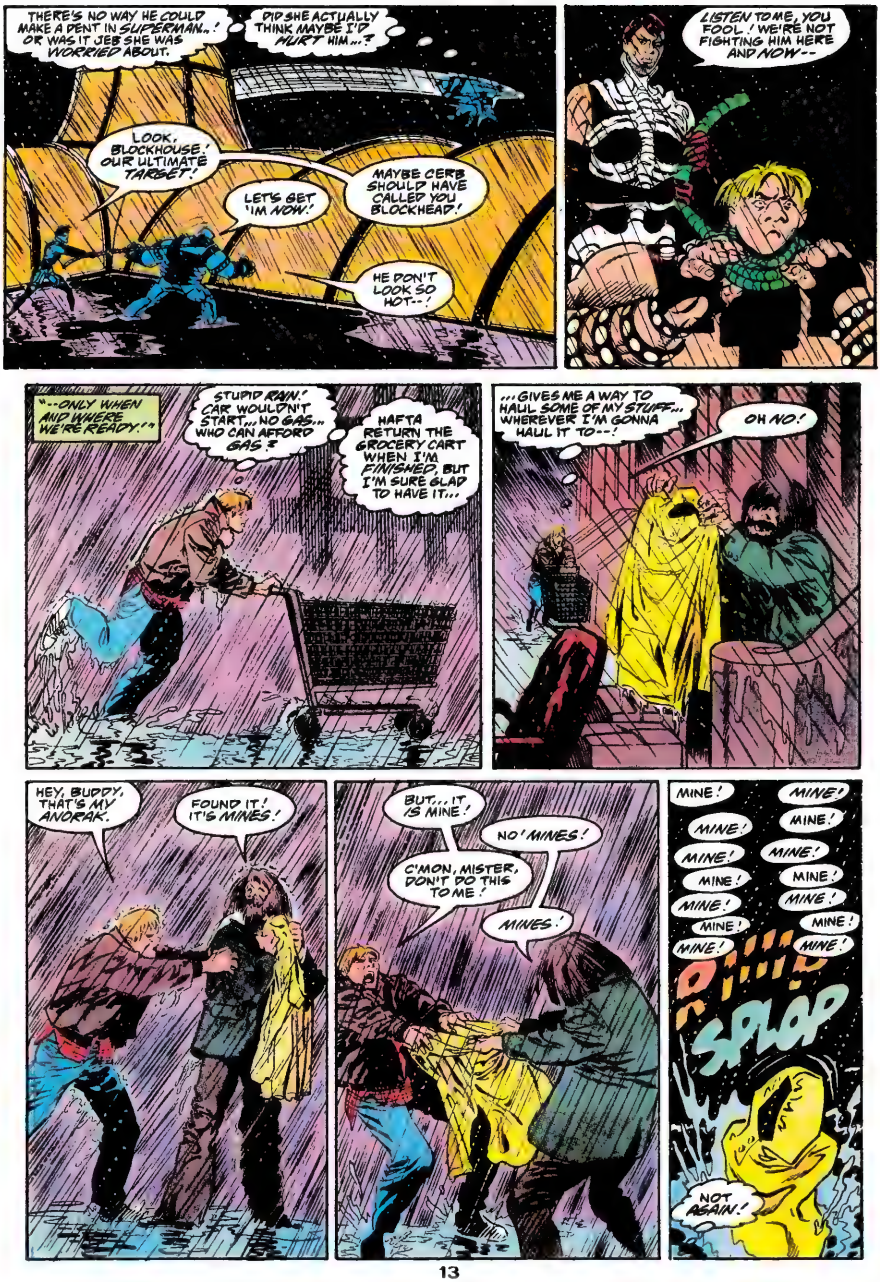

IT SEEMS TO SPEAK HIS LANGUAGE.
I JUST DON'T GET IT! HE HAD NO REASON TO GET MAD AT ME FOR DEFENDING HIM TO JEB.
JEB WASN'T MAD... IN FACT, HE THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY. FOR WHICH HE SHOULD DIE HORRIBLY...


...BUT CLARK JUST LOST IT. DARN IT, AS SUPERMAN HE'S DEFENDED ME LOTS OF TIMES AND... WELL...
...MAYBE I DID ACT LIKE THE WITCH QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE BUT I WAS PROVOKED!
BY BOTH OF THEM! WHAT IS IT WITH CLARK AND JEB, ANYWAY?
LOOK, MONKEYS!
LOOKS MORE LIKE THE THORNTON/BERKOWITZ DEBATE!
OMIGOSH! THE MAYORAL ELECTIONS! THEY'RE TONIGHT! I FORGOT. SO MUCH FOR HAVING MY FINGERS...


"...ON THE PULSE OF THE CITY."
WELL, IT CERTAINLY FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS!
EXCEPT THE LAST THING WASHINGTON NEEDS IS ANOTHER SLEET STORM!
TELL ME ABOUT IT! I'M GONNA HAVE TO START USING BUCKETS TO CATCH THE DRIPS FROM MY LEAKY CEILING!
SEE YA TOMORROW!
SO...WHAT'S WITH THOSE TWO?
BEEN FRIENDS ALMOST FOREVER, BUT I THINK LAWS HOT FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
AND HE MUST BE SOME HUNK IF HE CAN COMPETE WITH PETE ROSS.
COME ON UP. I'M COOKING HAMBURGERS. JUST AS EASY TO MAKE THEM FOR TWO.
ONLY IF I CAN GET US SOME WINE.
FORGET IT, PETE! YOU'RE NOT GOING OUT AGAIN IN THIS WEATHER!
IF IT HELPS, THINK OF IT AS MY WAY OF THANKING YOU.
THANKING ME?
YOU LET ME HAVE THE BEST APARTMENT, DIDN'T YOU?
MY CEILING DOESN'T LEAK.
AND MY VIEW IS FABULOUS.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE DRIPS, AND THE LANDLORD HAS PROMISED TO REPAIR THEM...


...AND SO FAR THEY'RE NOTHING A FEW POTS AND PANS CAN'T HANDLE.
WHAT'S THAT?
RUMBLE!
LANA--GET BACK!
CRASH!
PETE, WHAT IS IT?
THE CEILING!
I DON'T THINK POTS AND PANS'LL MAKE A DENT..

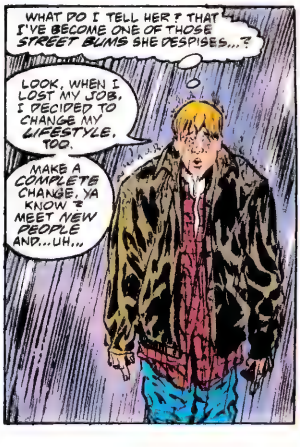

"... IN THIS MESS?"
THERE'S ONE A' THEM BOYS! PLUG 'IM!
SHOOT, DAMMIT! WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
I CAN'T SEE TA FRIGGIN' SHOOT! THERE'S SOMEBODY IN THE ROAD! IT'S--
SUPERMAN!
LEGGO!
WE DIDN'T DO NUTHIN'!
DON'T PUSH TONIGHT, GENTLEMEN. I'M IN NO MOOD FOR IT!
I'LL TAKE THE COPS ANY DAY. THE LOOK IN HIS EYE... MAN, I THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA KILL US!
WHY DID LOIS THINK SHE HAD TO JUMP IN AND DEFEND ME AGAINST JEB FRIEDMAN...?


THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD MAKE A DENT IN SUPERMAN...! OR WAS IT JOB SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT.
DID SHE ACTUALLY THINK MAYBE I'D HURT HIM...?
LOOK, BLOCKHOUSE! OUR ULTIMATE TARGET!
LET'S GET 'IM NOW!
MAYBE CERB SHOULD HAVE CALLED YOU BLOCKHEAD!
HE DON'T LOOK SO HOT--!
LISTEN TO ME, YOU FOOL! WE'RE NOT FIGHTING HIM HERE AND NOW--
"--ONLY WHEN AND WHERE WE'RE READY!"
STUPID RYAN! CAR WOULDN'T START... NO GAS... WHO CAN AFFORD GAS?
HAFTA RETURN THE GROCERY CART WHEN I'M FINISHED, BUT I'M SURE GLAD TO HAVE IT...
...GIVES ME A WAY TO HAUL SOME OF MY STUFF... WHEREVER I'M GONNA HAUL IT TO--!
OH NO!
HEY, BUDDY, THAT'S MY ANORAK.
FOUND IT! IT'S MINES!
BUT... IT IS MINE!
NO! MINES!
C'MON, MISTER, DON'T DO THIS TO ME!
MINES!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
SPLOP
NOT AGAIN!

JIMMY, WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
LUCY...? UH...YEAH... SURE...
THE LAST THING I WANTED WAS FOR HER TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.

MINES!
HE LEFT HIS CART, NOT MUCH IN IT, THOUGH. SOME OF THOSE STREET GUYS ARE SO DISGUSTING.
YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME IN AGES AND WHEN I TRIED TO CALL YOU, YOUR PHONE WAS DISCONNECTED AND--

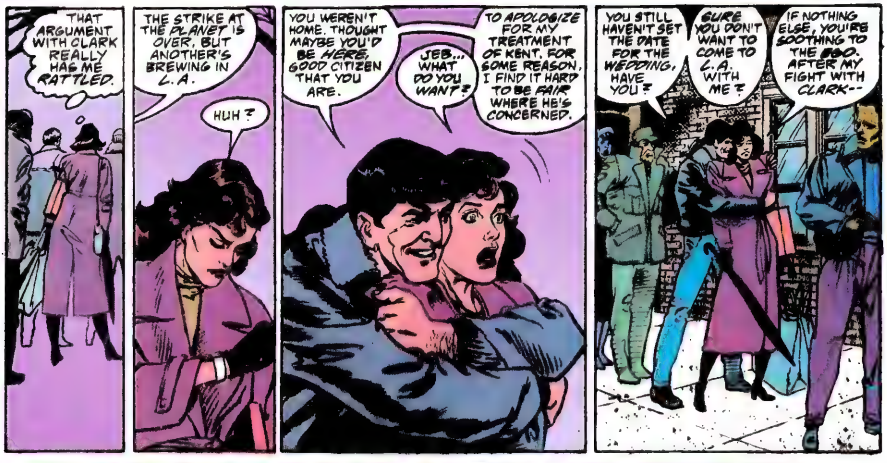
JIMMY, WHY ARE YOU JUST SITTING THERE IN THE POURING RAIN?

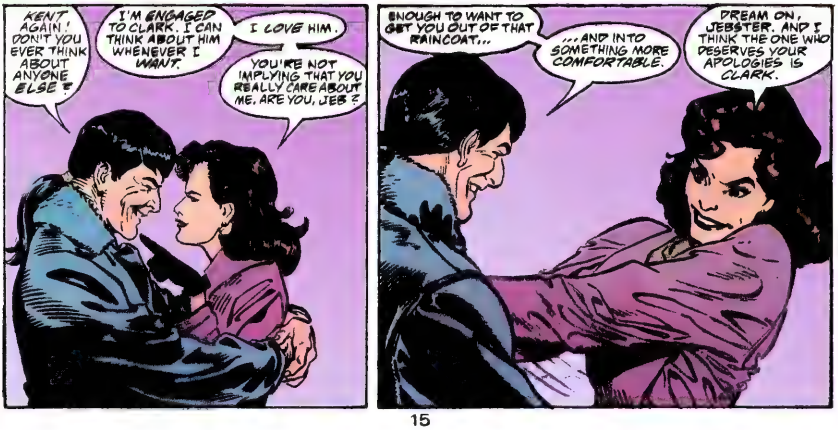

WHAT DO I TELL HER? THAT I'VE BECOME ONE OF THOSE STREET BUMS SHE DESPISES...?
LOOK, WHEN I LOST MY JOB, I DECIDED TO CHANGE MY LIFESTYLE, TOO.
MAKE A COMPLETE CHANGE, YA KNOW? MEET NEW PEOPLE AND...UH...

YOU MEAN... YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME ANY-MORE...?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING REAL WEIRD, BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST...
...YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT LOSING YOUR JOB. AND I WAS SO: SNIFF! CONCERNED...

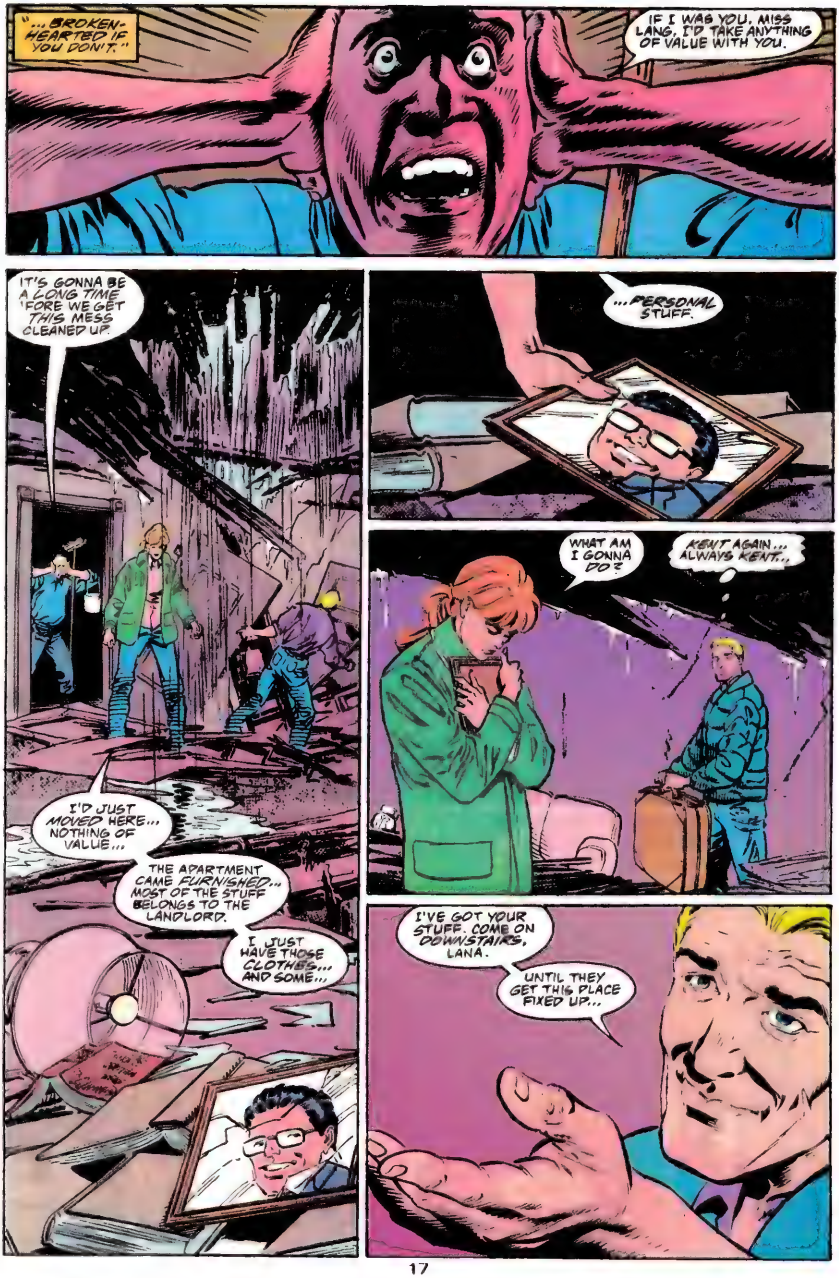
I DIDN'T THINK SNIFF!...
WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER A GIRL LIKE LUCY ANYMORE? WHY SHOULD IT MATTER...

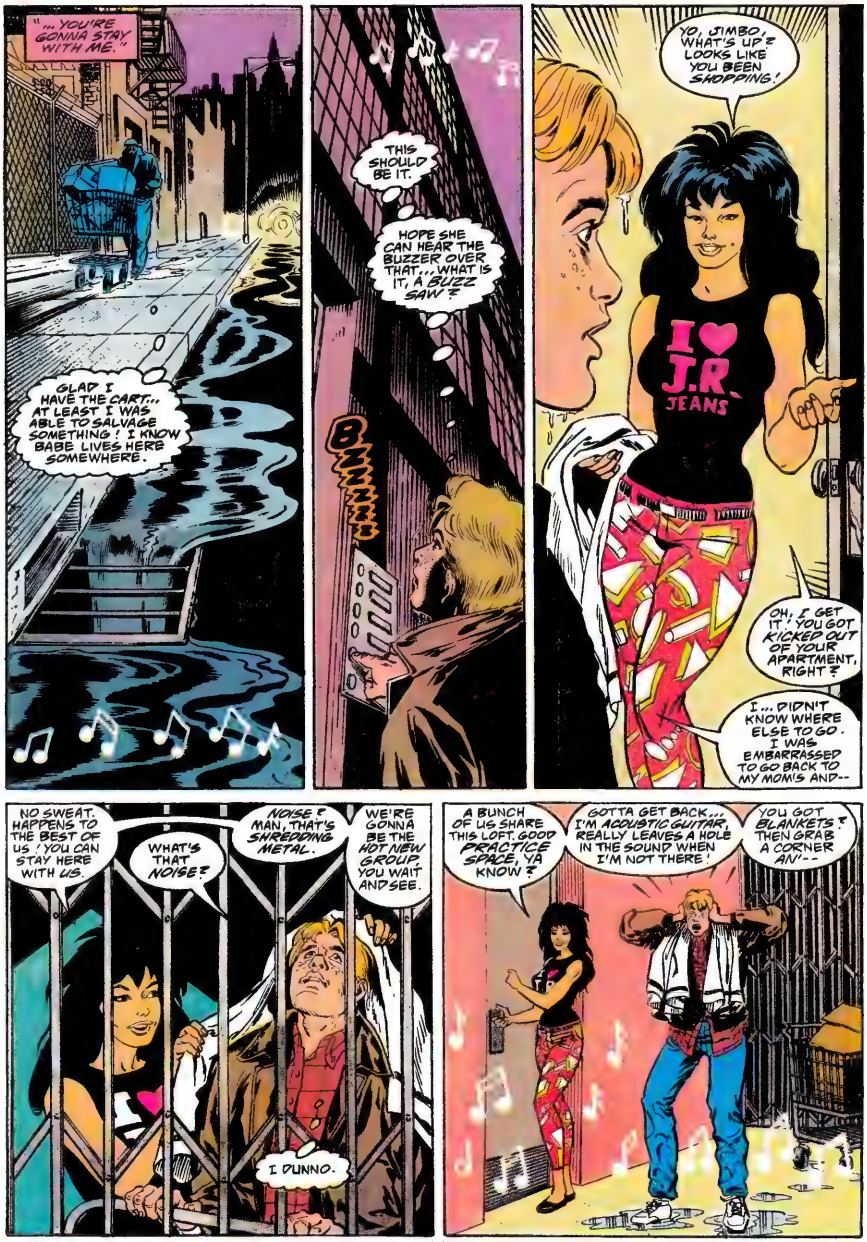
"...IF SHE HATES ME?"
GOOD TURN-OUT. GUESS EVERYBODY WAITED FOR THE RAIN TO STOP.
THE RACE OF THE DECADE AND I ALMOST FORGOT.
VOTE
THORNTON

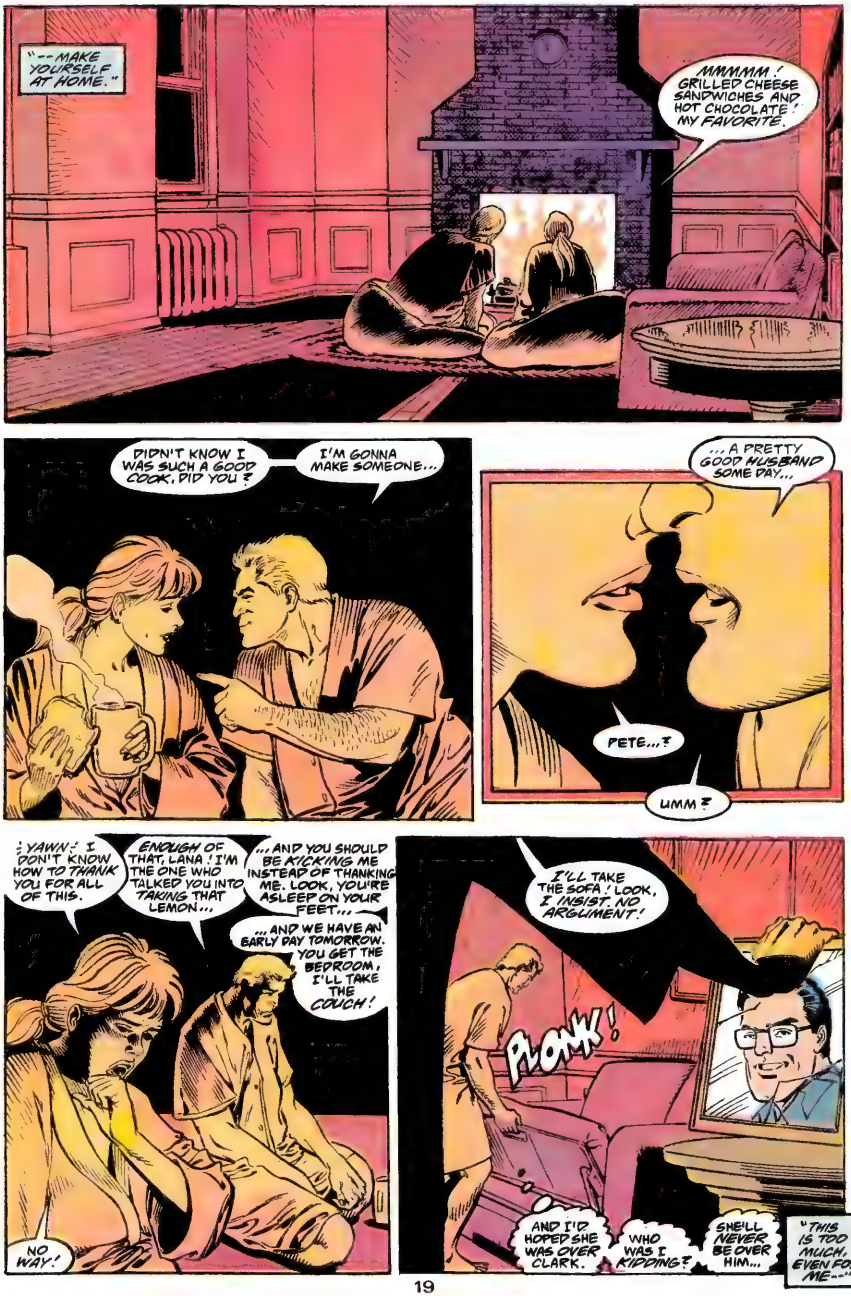

THAT ARGUMENT WITH CLARK REALLY HAS ME RATTLED.
THE STRIKE AT THE PLANET IS OVER, BUT ANOTHER'S BREWING IN L.A.
HUH?
YOU WEREN'T HOME. THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D BE HERE. GOOD CITIZEN THAT YOU ARE.
JEB... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY TREATMENT OF KENT. FOR SOME REASON, I FIND IT HARD TO BE FAIR WHERE HE'S CONCERNED.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T SET THE DATE FOR THE WEDDING, HAVE YOU?
SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME TO L.A. WITH ME?
IF NOTHING ELSE, YOU'RE SOOTHING TO THE EGO. AFTER MY FIGHT WITH CLARK--


KENT AGAIN! DON'T YOU EVER THINK ABOUT ANYONE ELSE?
I'M ENGAGED TO CLARK. I CAN THINK ABOUT HIM WHENEVER I WANT.
I LOVE HIM.
YOU'RE NOT IMPLYING THAT YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT ME, ARE YOU, JEB?
ENOUGH TO WANT TO GET YOU OUT OF THAT RAINCOAT...
...AND INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE.
DREAM ON, JEBSTER. AND I THINK THE ONE WHO DESERVES YOUR APOLOGIES IS CLARK.

THINK SO? YO, KENT. OVER HERE!
CLARK...?!? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
I VOTE HERE, REMEMBER?
LOOK, KENT. I CAME HERE TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY EARLIER CRACKS. NOT THAT I WANTED TO...
LOIS MADE ME... SHE'S AFRAID YOU'LL BEAT ME UP IF I DON'T.
SHE WORRIES ABOUT MY SAFETY, YOU KNOW?
DID I TELL YOU SHE SAVED MY LIFE DURING THE RIOTS?
JEB...
SORRY. NOT MUCH OF AN APOLOGY, WAS IT? TOTAL FABRICATION.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT COMES OVER ME WHEN I GET NEAR LOIS.
THE DEVIL?
DON'T LOOK AT HIM LIKE THAT. HE'S NOT CUTTING. I'M GIVING HIM MY PLACE IN LINE. IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.
POLLS
VOTING AREA
I'M OFF TO THE WEST COAST.
I REALLY THINK YOU TWO SHOULD WORK IT OUT. NOT THAT I'LL BE...

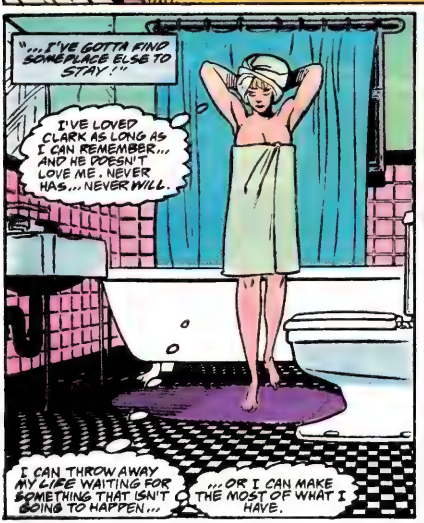

"...BROKEN-HEARTED IF YOU DON'T."
IF I WAS YOU, MISS LANG, I'D TAKE ANYTHING OF VALUE WITH YOU.
IT'S GONNA BE A LONG TIME 'FORE WE GET THIS MESS CLEANED UP.
I'D JUST MOVED HERE... NOTHING OF VALUE...
THE APARTMENT CAME FURNISHED... MOST OF THE STUFF BELONGS TO THE LANDLORD.
I JUST HAVE THOSE CLOTHES... AND SOME...
...PERSONAL STUFF.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
KENT AGAIN... ALWAYS KENT...
I'VE GOT YOUR STUFF. COME ON DOWNSTAIRS, LANA.
UNTIL THEY GET THIS PLACE FIXED UP...


"... YOU'RE GONNA STAY WITH ME."
GLAD I HAVE THE CART... AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO SALVAGE SOMETHING! I KNOW BABE LIVES HERE SOMEWHERE.
THIS SHOULD BE IT.
HOPE SHE CAN HEAR THE BUZZER OVER THAT... WHAT IS IT, A BUZZ SAW?
BZZZZZ
YO, JIMBO, WHAT'S UP? LOOKS LIKE YOU BEEN SHOPPING!
I ♥ J.R. JEANS
OH, I GET IT! YOU GOT KICKED OUT OF YOUR APARTMENT, RIGHT?
I... DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO. I WAS EMBARRASSED TO GO BACK TO MY MOM'S AND--
NO SWEAT. HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US! YOU CAN STAY HERE WITH US.
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
NOISE? MAN, THAT'S SHREDDING METAL.
WE'RE GONNA BE THE HOT NEW GROUP. YOU WAIT AND SEE.
I DUNNO.
A BUNCH OF US SHARE THIS LOFT. GOOD PRACTICE SPACE, YA KNOW?
GOTTA GET BACK... I'M ACOUSTIC GUITAR, REALLY LEAVES A HOLE IN THE SOUND WHEN I'M NOT THERE!
YOU GOT BLANKETS? THEN GRAB A CORNER AN'--

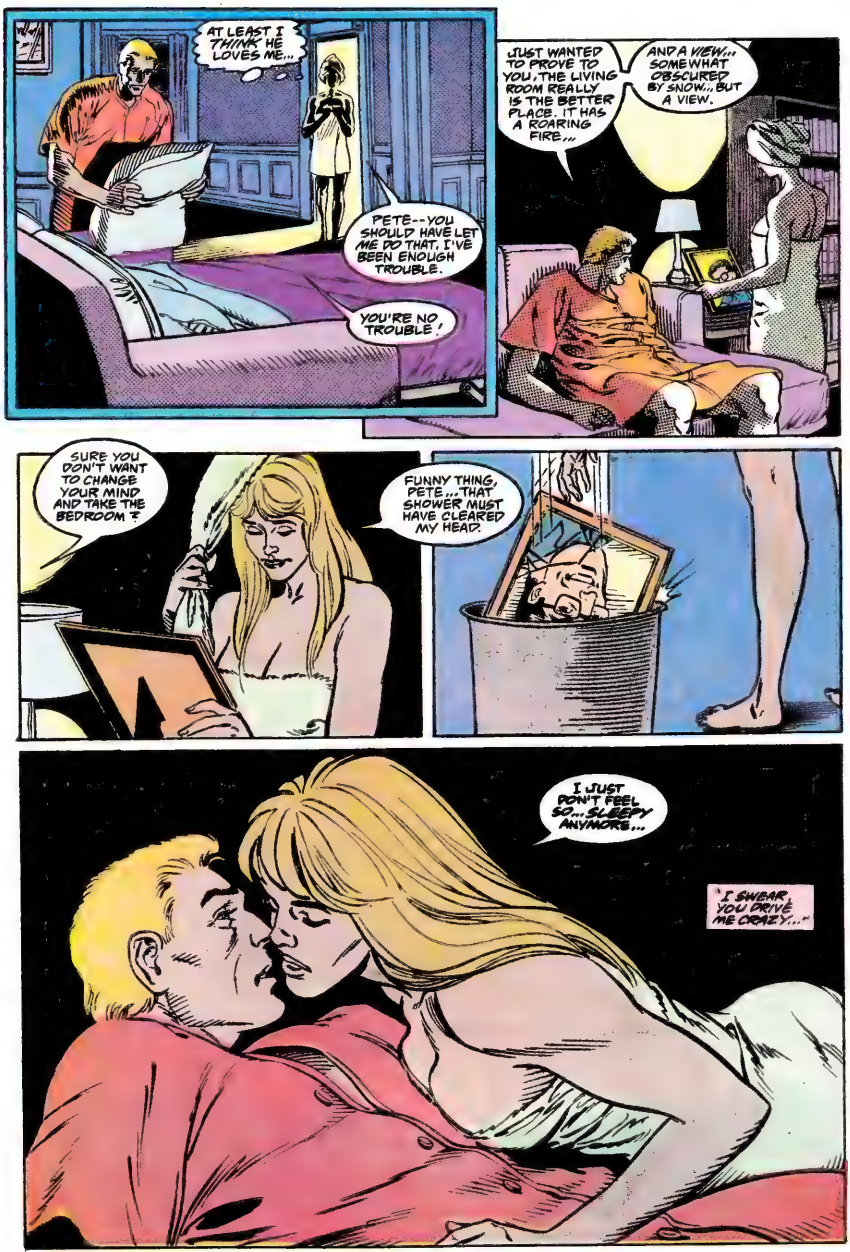

"--MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME."
MMMMM! GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICHES AND HOT CHOCOLATE! MY FAVORITE.
DIDN'T KNOW I WAS SUCH A GOOD COOK. DID YOU?
I'M GONNA MAKE SOMEONE...
...A PRETTY GOOD HUSBAND SOME DAY...
PETE...?
UMM?
YAWN! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THIS.
ENOUGH OF THAT, LANA! I'M THE ONE WHO TALKED YOU INTO TAKING THAT LEMON...
...AND YOU SHOULD BE KICKING ME INSTEAD OF THANKING ME. LOOK, YOU'RE ASLEEP ON YOUR FEET...
...AND WE HAVE AN EARLY DAY TOMORROW. YOU GET THE BEDROOM, I'LL TAKE THE COUCH!
NO WAY!
I'LL TAKE THE SOFA! LOOK, I INSIST. NO ARGUMENT!
PLONK!
AND I'D HOPED SHE WAS OVER CLARK.
WHO WAS I KIDDING?
SHE'LL NEVER BE OVER HIM...
"THIS IS TOO MUCH, EVEN FOR ME--"

BROWN
CASIO

AND BABE SAYS THIS NOISE GOES ON ALL DAY AND NIGHT! WHEN DO THEY SLEEP?
DO THEY EVER SLEEP?
AS SOON AS IT GETS LIGHT OUT...


"...I'VE GOTTA FIND SOMEPLACE ELSE TO STAY!"
I'VE LOVED CLARK AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER... AND HE DOESN'T LOVE ME. NEVER HAS... NEVER WILL.
I CAN THROW AWAY MY LIFE WAITING FOR SOMETHING THAT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN...
...OR I CAN MAKE THE MOST OF WHAT I HAVE.

PETE MAY NOT BE A SUPERMAN, BUT HE'S PRETTY WONDERFUL IN HIS OWN WAY...
...AND HE LOVES ME...


AT LEAST I THINK HE LOVES ME...
PETE--YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME DO THAT. I'VE BEEN ENOUGH TROUBLE.
YOU'RE NO TROUBLE,
JUST WANTED TO PROVE TO YOU, THE LIVING ROOM REALLY IS THE BETTER PLACE. IT HAS A ROARING FIRE...
AND A VIEW... SOMEWHAT OBSCURED BY SNOW... BUT A VIEW.
SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO CHANGE YOUR MIND AND TAKE THE BEDROOM?
FUNNY THING, PETE... THAT SHOWER MUST HAVE CLEARED MY HEAD.
I JUST DON'T FEEL SO... SLEEPY ANYMORE...
"I SWEAR, YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY..."

...AND JEB'S NOT ANY BETTER!
HOW COULD YOU ACCEPT AN APOLOGY LIKE THAT FROM THAT...THAT--
I FELT SORRY FOR THE GUY, SUE ME.
SORRY?!?
OH, YEAH... RIGHT... YOU CAN FEEL SORRY FOR THAT SNAKE--
--BUT WHEN I TRY TO DEFEND YOU... LIKE YOU'VE DEFENDED ME MILLIONS OF TIMES...
...YOU PRACTICALLY BITE MY HEAD OFF. YOU...YOU--
SO THAT'S WHAT LOIS WAS MAD ABOUT. AND I THOUGHT--
THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS JERK!
IT IS?
YEAH. I'M SORRY, LOIS. I GUESS...YOU SEEMED TO LIKE JEB AN AWFUL LOT AND... I WAS AFRAID--
OH, CLARK... YOU WEREN'T JEALOUS?
YOU WERE--?
I SWEAR, CLARK KENT, SOMETIMES YOUR HEAD IS AS THICK AS YOUR BULL NECK.
C'MERE.
AS IF THERE COULD EVER BE ANYONE FOR ME BUT YOU.
End

Y'KNOW, CLARK, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN JOURNALISM STINKS!

I MEAN, WHO ELSE WOULD BE STUCK IN A FREEZING RAIN STORM IN THE ATLANTIC--

--WAITING FOR A *WAR* TO BREAK OUT?

I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY YOU'RE HERE MYSELF, CAT!

HOSTILITIES BETWEEN OUMLAND AND ATLANTIS ARE BIG NEWS--*

--BUT YOU'RE *NOT* A HARD NEWS REPORTER! WHAT GIVES?

I MAY NOT COVER BIG NEWS BUT I *DO* COVER BIG NAMES!

AND *AQUAMAN*, AS HERO AND FORMER MONARCH, *DEFINITELY* FITS THE PROFILE--

* AS SEEN IN DC'S NEW AQUAMAN SERIES!

"--WHICH MEANS I GET SENT OUT HERE HOPING TO INTERVIEW HIM!

STORM'S GETTIN' WORSE, CAP'N. WANNA TURN BACK?

LET HER BLOW, MATE! THIS OLD TUB CAN HANDLE WORSE THAN THIS!

I HEARD THAT, AND I DON'T LIKE IT! BAD WEATHER.. A BREWING WAR. IT ALL ADDS UP TO TROUBLE!

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE DANGEROUS OUT HERE, CAT?

NOT IF I GET MY INTERVIEW! HEY--OUT THERE! IS THAT *HIM*?

SHADOWS FROM THE PAST!

story & art: DAN JURGENS
finished art: BRETT BREEDING
lettering: JOHN COSTANZA
coloring: GLENN WHITMORE
assistant editor: DAN THORSLAND
editor: MIKE CARLIN

SUPERMAN
created by
SIEGEL & SHUSTER

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, CAT--

--BUT IT SURE ISN'T *AQUAMAN!*

SEND OUT AN *S.O.S.!* WE'RE LISTING!

ANOTHER *DINOSAUR?!*

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I'D THINK IT FOLLOWED ME FROM THAT BIZARRE, PREHISTORIC ISLAND!

NO MATTER! RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO PLAY ALONG-- ROLL WITH THE SHIP--

--AND FALL INTO THE DRINK LIKE THE OTHERS!

THAT'LL GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO SWIM UP BEHIND THE BOAT AND RIGHT IT!

THEN A GOOD, DEEP BREATH--

--AND I CAN GET MOVING!

BETTER STASH MY CLOTHES IN THE POUCH! AFTER ALL--

--*SUPERMAN* CAN BATTLE DINOSAURS AND PERFORM A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION--

--A LOT MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN CLARK KENT!

LOIS TOLD ME THAT THEY HAD TO WOUND A PLESIOSAUR WHEN THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ME LAST WEEK! COULD THIS ACTUALLY--

NO PROBLEM, FOLKS!

SUPERMAN!? DID YOU SEE THAT... THAT *THING*?

IT JUST WENT BACK UNDER! YOU GOTTA SAVE US BEFORE IT COMES *BACK!*

HOW DID YOU GET HERE SO QUICK?

I WAS... IN THE AREA WHEN I HEARD YOUR *S.O.S.!*

IT FIGGERS THAT YOU'D BE HERE TO HELP PREVENT THIS WAR!

YOU'LL BE OKAY HERE ON DECK...WHILE I GET THE REST!

IS THAT ALL OF THEM?

ONCE YOU FOLKS TAKE A HEAD COUNT WE'LL KNOW!

WE'RE TWO SHORT! THE CAPTAIN IS ONE AND CLARK KENT IS THE OTHER!

HURRY! THAT WATER IS *COLD*--

I'M ON IT!

THERE HE IS!

HAVE TO GET HIM UP BEFORE--!

HIM? IT CAN'T BE!

OF ALL PEOPLE-- *NOT HANS SCHMIDT!*

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO--YET IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY!

"SUPERMAN WAS JUST A DREAM! EVEN THOUGH I HAD MY POWERS--

"--I WAS STILL JUST CLARK KENT, METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY SENIOR!

"BUT THERE WAS THAT FATEFUL, SUNNY MORNING, WHEN AN OUT OF CONTROL WHEEL CHAIR--

"--AND A LIFE-SAVING GESTURE CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER!

"HER NAME WAS LORI LEMARIS, AND HER GREEN EYES HAD A HAUNTING BEAUTY THAT SEEMED DEEPER THAN THE SEA ITSELF!

"IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT... AND I WAS HAPPIER THAN ANY MAN HAD A RIGHT TO BE.

"DESPITE HER UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS HER PAST I PROPOSED.

"UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS A RE-LATIONSHIP THAT COULDN'T LAST.

"STRANGE AS IT SOUNDED THEN, SHE WAS A MERMAID! A TELEPATHIC CREATURE FROM ATLANTIS!

"IN TIME WE PARTED. LORI SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND--

"--THAT WHILE HER DESTINY WAS IN THE SEAS--

"--MINE WAS IN THE SKY.

"I TRIED TO GO ON WITH MY LIFE AND FOR A WHILE IT WORKED--

"--UNTIL THE DAY HANS SCHMIDT TOLD ME ABOUT THE BEWITCHING MERMAID HE'D SEEN ON THE COAST!

"HE WAS CRAZY WITH FEAR AND SUPERSTITION!

"BUT I WAS SO INTENT ON SEEING HER AGAIN--FINDING LORI--

"--THAT I DIDN'T SEE THE DANGER IN SCHMIDT!

"OUR REUNION WAS SHORT-LIVED. SCHMIDT, THAT SLIME, SHOWED--

"--AND VERY NEARLY KILLED MY LOVE!

"I TOOK HER TO TRITONIS, WHERE DOCTOR RONAL MANAGED TO SAVE HER!

"IN THE PROCESS, THOUGH, THEY FELL IN LOVE AND LORI KISSED ME GOODBYE FOREVER.

"EVEN THEN, SHE WASN'T TO KNOW HAPPINESS.

"MONTHS LATER, RONAL TOLD ME SHE DIED DEFENDING HER HOME-LAND.

"IF HE'D NEVER KNIFED LORI, SHE AND RONAL WOULD NEVER HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE!

"SHE'D BE MINE! SHE'D BE ALIVE!

"HERE, IN HER ELEMENT--"

--IT WOULD BE FITTING TO LET THE GUY DROWN!

BUT THAT'S NOT MY DECISION TO MAKE.

YOU'RE A A LUCKY MAN, SCHMIDT.

LUCKIER THAN YOU DESERVE.

LOOKS LIKE MORE TROUBLE!

OHHH...

IF THAT GIANT OCTOPUS IS ATTACKING THE BOAT, I'VE STILL GOT MY WORK CUT OUT FOR ME!

WHAT'S UP, CAT? YOU FOLKS SEEM PRETTY CALM CONSIDERING--

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! AQUAMAN WAS JUST HERE--

-- AND HE SEEMED TO ACTUALLY TELL THAT OCTOPUS TO HELP KEEP THE BOAT AFLOAT!

KOFF-- KAFF!

HE WAS AMAZING! NO *WONDER* THEY CALL HIM KING OF THE SEAS!

HE'S QUITE A GUY ALL RIGHT. WHERE IS HE NOW?

HE'S OFF LOOKING FOR CLARK KENT! IF THAT BIG, UGLY SEA MONSTER GOT HIM...

DON'T WORRY, CAT--

"--BETWEEN AQUAMAN AND MYSELF I THINK WE CAN FIND CLARK!"

I'M TELLING YOU, DOCTOR RONAL, OUR BELOVED CITY OF TRITONIS WILL GET DRAGGED INTO THIS WAR YET!

OUMLAND SEES LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND POSEIDONIS!

THEY -- THE WHOLE WORLD, IN FACT-- SEEM TO THINK OF ATLANTIS AS JUST ONE UNDERWATER CITY!

BY THE MAGICS, THIS COULD MEAN THE END OF EVERYTHING!

EASY, LORD IQULA. THE EVENTS YOU FEAR ARE HARDLY CAST IN STONE.

TRUE. EVEN NOW MY SCOUTS ARE--EH?

LORD IQULA, I HAVE NEWS!

THEN SPEAK IT! QUICKLY!

A SURFACE BOAT FLOATING ABOVE WAS ATTACKED BY AN ANCIENT FROM THE NETHER REGIONS!

NOT ONLY IS AQUAMAN INVOLVED --BUT THE SURFACE HERO, SUPERMAN, AS WELL!

SUPERMAN?!

OF ALL THE PEOPLE TO VISIT OUR SACRED WATERS--

--WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE HIM? WHY--

"--COULDN'T HE HAVE STAYED IN METROPOLIS WHERE HE BELONGS?"

OH, LOOK HOW *BEAUTIFUL* IT IS OUT THERE!

POOR CLARK IS SURE GOING TO REGRET MISSING IT! SOMETHING ABOUT A FRESH SNOWFALL PAINTING A CITY WHITE--

--THAT EVEN A SUPERMAN CAN'T RESIST!

NOT THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIS GOING OFF TO COVER THAT STORY OUT IN THE ATLANTIC!

HE COULDN'T WAIT TO GET BACK ON THE BEAT AND WORK THAT STRIKE BUSINESS OUT OF HIS SYSTEM!

AND IT GAVE ME THE CHANCE TO SNEAK OUT AND BUY HIM THIS SHIRT FOR CHRISTMAS!

I MEAN, PAPER WON'T KEEP A SECRET FROM A MAN WHO CAN SEE THROUGH CONCRETE!

LOOK! IT'S THAT LANE DAME!

NOW I MIGHT AS WELL HEAD OUT TO PICK UP A MATCHING TIE!

ALMOST SEEMS SILLY TO WRAP HIS GIFTS, THOUGH!

WONDER WHAT CERBERUS WANTS WITH HER ANYWAY?

NO KIDDIN! SCRAWNY LITTLE THING DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH TO ME!

ZZZZ... FUMMMM...FUMPH...

FUMPH... HUH? WH-WHERE?

OH, NOW I REMEMBER!

NO WONDER I'M SO BLAMED COLD!

I HAD TO SPEND THE NIGHT SLEEPIN' IN MY CAR!

NO JOB, NO MONEY AND NO HEAT!

MAN, THIS REALLY BITES!

GREAT! YESTERDAY'S RAIN TURNED TO SNOW OVERNIGHT!

THIS CAR IS GOOD AND STUCK AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE A SHOVEL!

I'LL HAVE TO DIG IT OUT WITH MY HANDS! *@!&!#!

IF I HAD TO BE UNEMPLOYED, WHY COULDN'T IT AT LEAST BE SUMMER?

HEY, WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

SOUNDS KINDA LIKE A BUS OR SOMETHIN' IS--

VVVVV

CITY OF METROPOLIS

YEEEOW!

SNOW PLOW COMIN' THROUGH!

DRIVER MUST NOT'VE SEEN ME THROUGH ALL THE SNOW GLARE!

VVOOOOMM

NOW IT'S GONNA TAKE ME EVEN LONGER TO GET MY BOMB DUG OUT! FACE IT, OLSEN--

-- OF THE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN METROPOLIS--

DAILY ☌ PLANET

BERKOWITZ RE-ELECTED MA

I'D HAFTA VOTE YOURS THE *WORST!*

DAILY ☌ PLANET

BERKOWITZ RE-ELECTED MAYOR

"THE POLITICS OF WASHINGTON, DC IS FASCINATING, LANA!"

WORKING WITH THE SENATOR THIS WAY--

--I'VE NEVER FELT MORE USEFUL! MORE *ALIVE!*

AND I'VE CERTAINLY NEVER SEEN YOU HAPPIER, PETE.

SHOULD THAT REALLY SURPRISE YOU, LANA?

DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH YOU'VE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT?

WITH YOU AT MY SIDE, I FEEL I'M CAPABLE OF ANYTHING!

YOU ARE, PETE, YOU *ARE!* BUT YOU'VE MADE AN IMPACT ON ME, TOO!

GUESS WE MAKE QUITE A PAIR, *HMM?*

I THOUGHT POSEIDONIS WAS IN BAD SHAPE WHEN THE OUMLANDIAN SUBS DESTROYED ITS DOMES!

I LEFT OUMLAND SEEKING ANSWERS, THOUGH IT MEANT COMING BACK TO POSEIDONIS...

...AND THE *MEMORIES* IT HOLDS FOR ME.

BUT EVEN WITH ALL THESE TROUBLES I NEVER EXPECTED TO HAVE TO FACE A PREHISTORIC REPTILE AS WELL!

IT LOOKS WOUNDED--AND IT'S SO FRENZIED IT'S ATTACKING WILDLY!

UNFORTUNATELY, MY TELEPATHIC POWERS ARE UNABLE TO AFFECT ITS BEHAVIOR!

MAYBE IT'S TOO PRIMITIVE TO COMMUNICATE!

THERE IS BUT ONE CHOICE.

MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO HARM ONE OF THE SEA'S CREATURES--

--I MUST PUT IT OUT OF ITS MISERY!

I CANNOT ALLOW IT TO RAVAGE THE CITY. HUNDREDS COULD BE INJURED--OR WORSE!

WAIT! SOMEONE IS TRYING TO BEAT ME TO THE PUNCH!

EVEN THOUGH HE'S GOING IN HARD AND FAST-- HE WON'T STAND A CHANCE!

SURPRISE, SURPRISE, OLD FRIEND! BET YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE ME HERE!

I'D LIKE TO SAY "HELLO," BUT IT'S KIND OF HARD TO DO WHILE I'M HOLDING MY BREATH!

SUPERMAN?!

AREN'T YOU STRAYING A BIT FAR FROM YOUR TURF?

OR DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BEHEMOTH THAT I DON'T?

I MAY KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM!

LOIS TALKED OF AN ATTACK FROM A GIANT PLESIOSAUR BACK AT THAT DINOSAUR ISLAND!*

*SUPERMAN 62

TO SCARE IT OFF, GUARDIAN HAD TO *WOUND* IT!

AND I THINK THIS IS THE GUY! HE WAS PROBABLY SO DIS-TRAUGHT THAT HE WANDERED OFF--

-- GOT LOST, AND WOUND UP IN THESE WATERS!

WELL, WHATEVER BROUGHT YOU HERE, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!

THIS IS A TOUGH TIME FOR US. IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD, WE'RE AT WAR WITH-- WAIT!

THAT NOISE?

TORPEDOES!

OUMLAND IS ATTACKING AGAIN?!

CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HOW CAN THOSE-- PEOPLE--

--FIRE ON A CITY OF INNOCENT PEOPLE LIKE THIS?

NESSIE WILL HAVE TO WAIT!

THAT TORPEDO COULD KILL THOUSANDS UNLESS I DO SOMETHING!

I SEE WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND! I'LL TAKE THE ONE ON THE RIGHT!

UHF! THIS THING IS MOVING SO FAST I WAS LUCKY TO CATCH IT!

IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THAT BUILDING! GOTTA PULL UP HARD--

--AND *KEEP* PULLING--

--UNTIL I CLEAR THE ROOFLINE!

"YOUR TORPEDO MISSED, SIR! YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS-->"

--BUT IT'S AS IF SOMEONE'S *PUSHING* IT!

<THAT'S BAD-- VERY BAD! IS THE TORP STILL ARMED?>

<THEN REVERSE ALL ENGINES AND PULL US OUT OF HERE!>

<AFFIRMATIVE!>

<I WISH TO HELL COMMAND WOULD LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS LOUSY WAR!>

S'CUSE ME. YOU CAT GRANT?

YES, CAPTAIN! DO YOU HAVE NEWS? HAVE YOU FOUND CLARK?

'FRAID NOT. BY NOW, IN THESE FRIGID WATERS, WELL--

--WE FIGURE HE'S A GONER. I'M CALLING OFF THE SEARCH!

YOU *CAN'T* DO THAT! SUPERMAN AND AQUAMAN ARE STILL LOOKING FOR HIM! BESIDES--

"-- HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO TELL LOIS HER FIANCÉ IS DEAD?"

I GUESS ABSENCE DOES MAKE THE HEART GROW FONDER.

CLARK'S ONLY BEEN GONE A DAY BUT IT FEELS LIKE A WEEK!

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH LATELY.

DESPITE THE STRIKE, JEB FRIEDMAN, AND CLARK'S AMNESIA--

-- OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER!

I GUESS WE REALLY CEMENTED THAT THE NIGHT HE TOLD ME HE WAS SUPERMAN.

FROM THAT MOMENT ON, I KNEW HE TRUSTED ME--THAT HE REALLY *LOVED* ME.

DON'T WALL

"I FELT LIKE I REALLY WAS THE ONLY WOMAN HE EVER LOVED ENOUGH TO CONFIDE IN!"

ARE YOU HERE? WE MUST TALK IMMEDIATELY!

OF COURSE, WHY DO YOU APPEAR SO AGITATED, RONAL?

IT'S SUPERMAN! HE'S ACTUALLY IN POSEIDONIS BATTLING AN OUMLANDIAN SUBMARINE!

NO!

THIS ISN'T HIS ELEMENT! WITHOUT MY HELP--HE COULD *DIE!*

WAIT! YOU MUSN'T-- OH, WHAT'S THE USE? WITH SUPERMAN NEARBY--

"--I CAN ONLY FEAR THE WORST."

LUNGS BURNING-- NEED AIR!

NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THE CITY--

--I CAN LET THIS GO--

--AND HEAD UP TO THE--

NO! THAT PLESIOSAURUS!

IT'S SWIMMING RIGHT IN THE PATH!

CAN'T... LET IT HAPPEN... HAVE TO TRY--

--HARDER!

THAT SEA CLIFF!

IT'S SURE TO DETONATE THE--

BWOOOF

GEYSER OFF THE STARBOARD BOW, CAPTAIN! LOOKS LIKE AN UNDERWATER EXPLOSION--A *BIG ONE!*

YOU REPORTERS WANTED TO SEE WAR?

LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT YOUR WISH!

MY GOD! HOW CAN CLARK POSSIBLY STILL BE...

...ALIVE?

SUPERMAN!

SO MUCH DIRT AND SEDIMENT THAT I CAN'T SEE A *THING!*

WHY COULDN'T HIS TORPEDO--

"--HAVE DRIFTED HARMLESSLY TO THE BOTTOM AS MINE DID?"

IT IS TRUE.

IT IS *HIM.*

AM I TOO LATE?

IF HE DROWNED, HOW WILL I LIVE WITH MYSELF?

FINALLY-- THERE HE IS! AND HE'S NOT ALONE!

BUT OF ALL PEOPLE TO BE WITH HIM-- IT'S *HER*!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GIVING HIM MOUTH-TO MOUTH-RESUSCITATION!

IS...IS HE...?

NO. IF I CAN RETURN HIM TO HIS SURFACE WORLD I THINK HE WILL SURVIVE.

HERE--LET ME HELP!

UNNECESSARY. THERE'S ANOTHER THREAT TO YOUR CITY. YOU MUST GO.

I WILL CARE FOR HIM AS I CARED FOR THE HUMAN I HELPED EARLIER.

I BELIEVE THEY CALLED HIM KENT.

GREAT! I WAS SEARCHING FOR HIM WHEN THAT DINOSAUR INTERRUPTED ME!

CONSIDERING WHO THIS IS, THOUGH, ARE YOU SURE THAT--?

YES, THOUGH I WOULD ASK ONE FAVOR OF YOU.

PROMISE, PLEASE, THAT YOU WILL NEVER SPEAK TO HIM OF THIS.

I'VE KEPT YOUR SECRET THIS LONG. MUCH AS I HATE DOING SO--

--I SWEAR THAT I'LL NEVER TELL SUPERMAN--

--THAT LORI LEMARIS IS ALIVE AND WELL!

THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.

I KNOW IT PAINS YOU TO DO SO.

AS FOR YOU, MY LOVE--

--ANOTHER BREATH OF LIFE.

AND THEN I MUST COVER YOUR UNIFORM--

--FOR IT HAS TO BE THE MISSING CLARK KENT--

--AND NOT SUPERMAN--

--WHO RETURNS TO THE SURFACE VESSEL.

WHA...?

HUSH.

YOU MUST SLEEP AND BREATHE. NOTHING MORE.

THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG, CLARK.

A WORLD OF ENDLESS SKY AND LAND, AND PEOPLE WHO WALK.

OVER HERE! HELP!

THOSE BINOCULARS! LET ME HAVE THEM-- QUICKLY!

YOU SEE SUMTHIN'?

NOT REALLY--BUT I THOUGHT I HEARD A WOMAN CRY OUT FOR HELP!

AHH, IT'S JUST THE WIND! PAY IT NO MIND!

SOON YOU WILL BE RESCUED. FAREWELL, CLARK KENT.

AWAKEN.

PPPTT...PHHT... WHA...? HOW?

I REALLY *DID* HEAR SOMETHING! IT'S *CLARK*! AND... AND...

...AND... I COULDN'T HAVE SEEN WHAT I THOUGHT I SAW! COULD I?

I MEAN, THAT TAIL...

NAH. MUST'VE BEEN A FISH OR SOMETHING.

AHOY, OUT THERE! STAND BY FOR RESCUE!

I DON'T GET IT! HOW DID I END UP FLOATING HERE, DRESSED IN MY NORMAL CLOTHES, NO LESS?

MUST'VE BEEN DAZED BY THAT EXPLOSION AND MADE MY WAY HERE BY INSTINCT ALONE!

STRANGE. I DIMLY REMEMBER HAVING A VISION OF LORI FLASH BEFORE ME.

THE TRAUMA FROM THE EXPLOSION, BEING SO CLOSE TO ATLANTIS, THE WATER -- THAT'S WHAT MUST HAVE CAUSED IT.

NO WAY I'LL EVER FORGET HER. BUT I GUESS I'VE BEEN FORTUNATE --

"-- TO FIND SOMEONE I LOVE JUST AS MUCH."

TELEPATHY IS A CURSE. THERE ARE THOUGHTS I WOULD RATHER NOT "HEAR."

OH, CLARK, IF OUR LIVES WERE LESS DIFFERENT, I WOULD TELL YOU I'M STILL HERE.

BUT LOIS LANE IS MUCH BETTER SUITED TO BE YOUR MATE.

KNOWING THAT YOU WILL FIND HAPPINESS IS THE ONLY THING THAT ENABLES ME TO PERPETUATE THIS DECEPTION.

FOR OUR WORLDS ARE FAR TOO DIVERSE TO CONTINUE A RELATIONSHIP.

KNOWING THIS, I FIRST LIED TO YOU ABOUT LOVING RONAL.

AND REALIZING THAT WOULD NOT STOP YOU, I PERSUADED RONAL TO TELL YOU I WAS DEAD.

ONLY THEN WOULD YOU SHARE A LIFE WITH ANOTHER.

BUT I HAVE PAID THE PRICE OF YOUR HAPPINESS.

FOR YOU ARE, TRULY, THE ONLY MAN I WILL EVER LOVE.

END

"NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS DID I THINK THIS DAY WOULD EVER COME...

STAND BY

"HE KNOWS THE RULES ABOUT MAINTAINING SECRECY.

ACCESS CODE-

"BY TELLING THE AUTHORITIES THAT HE'S WILLING TO CUT A DEAL WITH THEM...

"...HE HAS IN AS MUCH AS SIGNED HIS OWN DEATH WARRANT.

PURGE

T-CHAK

T-CHAK

"INTERGANG MAY BE DOWN, BUT IT'S NOT OUT!"

PURGE

A TITANIC TALE BROUGHT TO YOU BY

TOM GRUMMETT
PENCILLER

DOUG HAZLEWOOD
INKER

JERRY ORDWAY
WRITER

GLENN WHITMORE
COLORIST

ALBERT DE GUZMAN
LETTERER

DAN THORSLAND
ASSISTANT EDITOR

MIKE CARLIN
THE GREAT ONE

SUPERMAN CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

NO. HELP ME, I'VE BEEN TURNED INTO A--

--GIANT TURTLE.

WOOF WOOF

WHUT TH--? HNNNN.

THAT BARKING WOKE ME UP FROM THE *WEIRDEST* DREAM--

WOO WOO WOOF

GRRRR

WHOSE *HOUND* IS MAKING *THAT* RACKET?

YEEE-OOOWWW!

I WAS ASLEEP IN MY CAR!

HONK!

THE SNOWSTORM HIT, SO I PUT THIS OLD JACKET ON AND STARTED TO *SHOVEL* THE CAR OUT OF A *MASSIVE* SNOWBANK...

...THEN I CRAWLED BACK IN, AND... AND... AND...

...I SLEPT THROUGH BEING TOWED TO THE POLICE IMPOUND LOT!

GRRRRR

GRRRRRR

AND NOW MY HORN HAS STIRRED UP THE *OTHER* GUARD-DOGS!

THIS IS *JUST* GREAT!

NO WAY I'M GOING TO GET PAST THOSE DOGS WITHOUT A *DISTRACTION!*

THERE *MUST* BE AN OLD, HALF-EATEN CANDY BAR FOR ME TO TOSS AT THEM--UNLESS I *ALREADY* ATE IT!

WHAT'S *THIS?*" "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ADAM"? *WOW,* THIS WAS A PRESENT I BOUGHT WAY BACK FOR CAT GRANT'S KID!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ADAM

THE KID CAN'T *MISS* SOMETHING HE NEVER *GOT!*

I ONLY PRAY THAT THE BATTERY IN THIS *DISPOSABLE* CAMERA CAN *STILL* POWER A *FLASH* PICTURE!

SAY "*CHEESE,*" YOU HELL-HOUNDS!

CLICK

R.R.R.R.R.R

ARRR ARRR ARRR

GOT ALL THE BELONGINGS I CAN CARRY AND ABOUT *FIVE* SECONDS TO REACH THAT CHAIN-LINK FENCE!

HOPE THE REST OF MY STUFF WILL BE OKAY 'TIL I CAN *AFFORD* TO BAIL MY "JUNKER" OUT OF IMPOUND!

GRRRRR

GRRRR GRRRRRR GRRRR

:HUF: I'M GOING :HUF: TO M-MAKE IT :HUF:

RATS! 'GOT MY DUFFLE--!

WOO WOO WOOF GRRRRR

:OUCH: EAT MY DUST, YOU CRUMMY, ROTTEN, MISERABLE--

--NAZI DOGS!

GRRRR

AWWW MAN! I'M JUST GONNA SIT HERE AND CRY! THAT'S THE LAST OF MY CLEAN CLOTHES!

MY MOM DOESN'T KNOW THAT I LOST MY JOB, MY APARTMENT, AND NOW MY CAR--

--HOW CAN I SHOW UP FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER LOOKING LIKE A BUM?

HEY!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, KID!

GRRRR?

ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE...

"...I'M NOT ABOUT TO GET MYSELF ARRESTED!"

GOOD MORNING, OFFICER.

OH, SORRY!

GENERAL

DON'T WORRY-- I WON'T TELL! I'VE GOT MEDICATION FOR MR. GILLESPIE.

BE CAREFUL IN THERE-- HE'S ONE OF THOSE INTERGANG TYPES...

THE DANGEROUS ONE'S IN PRISON. BESIDES, WITH A BROKEN NECK--

DAILY PLANET

MANNHEIM AGREES TO PLEA BARGAIN

--THIS ONE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE AT ALL.

GOOD MORNING, MR. GILLESPIE. WE'RE IN STAND-BY MODE, AWAITING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.

THESE SPECIAL CONTACT LENSES WILL ENABLE YOU TO PROCEED.

READY?

WETTING SOLUTION FOR COMFORT...

LOOK DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU.

THERE!

NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FOCUS YOUR EYES ON THE KEYBOARD.

AS LEADER OF INTERGANG BY PROXY, YOU MUST SPELL OUT THE COMMAND ON SCREEN.

THE MICROWAVE RECEIVER/TRANSMITTER WILL RELAY YOUR ORDERS.

Q W E R T Y U I O P

A S D F G H J K L •

DISPLAY Z X C V B N M ? !

DEL SPACE COMMAND

INTERGANG DIRECTIVE NUMBER SIX-FIFTY AWAITS YOUR INSTRUCTION.

:LIGHN:

IT WILL BE DONE.

MANNHEIM MUST BE ELIMINATED.

ONE THOUSAND FEET OVER SMALL COUNTY, KANSAS.

HEY, SLOW DOWN, CLARK-- LET ME CATCH MY BREATH!

SORRY, LOIS. I FORGET SOMETIMES THAT THE AIR'S THINNER THIS HIGH UP!

WE'RE ALMOST THERE, AT ANY RATE.

THIS STILL BEATS WAITING AROUND AT SOME AIRPORT ON STAND-BY, FOR A CROWDED FLIGHT OUT TO KANSAS!

ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU WON'T MISS YOUR FREQUENT FLYER DISCOUNTS?

WAIT A MINUTE--! NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT AIR SUPERMAN DOESN'T OFFER ANY PERKS?

WELL, I HAVE AN EXCELLENT ON TIME RECORD...

...AND I GUARANTEE TO GET YOU BACK TO METROPOLIS IN TIME FOR YOUR FAMILY'S THANKSGIVING DINNER!

I LOVE YOU.

WE ADVISE AGAINST GETTING FRIENDLY WITH THE PILOTS, MISS LANE!

SHUCKS, I WANTED TO MARRY YOU!

OH, WELL, THAT IS ALLOWED!

Y'KNOW, IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE ABLE TO SPEND THE HOLIDAYS WITH BOTH OF OUR FAMILIES TODAY!

I'M JUST HAPPY THAT YOUR MOM IS WELL AGAIN, AND THAT YOU AND YOUR DAD HAVE KIND OF PATCHED THINGS UP!

WELL, AT LEAST WE'RE TRYING!

PA! THEY'RE HERE! START CARVING THE HAM...

"...AFTER SUCH A LONG TRIP, THEY MUST BE MIGHTY HUNGRY.

USED MY LAST CENT TO CALL MOM TO TELL HER I COULDN'T MAKE IT FOR DINNER!

SHE'S STARTING TO GET SUSPICIOUS, TOO.

NOW WHAT DO I--EH?

SSSZZZZZZZ

THAT'S A DELIVERY ENTRANCE! WHO'S WORKING ON THANKS--

--GIVING?

A ROBOT? WHAT GIVES?

WHRR-CLIK

HE'S JUST LEAVING--GUESS I WASN'T IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO NOTICE!

THIS I'M GETTING PICTURES OF, 'CAUSE I HAVE A FEELING NOBODY'S GOING TO BELIEVE...

...THAT IT CAME OUT OF THE BASEMENT OF THE SHELTER!

PETER SHOEMAKER MEMORIAL SHELTER

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT? A MOTORCYCLE WITH NO DRIVER?

I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST NOTION, BUT I'LL FEEL SORRY FOR ANYONE WHO STEPS INTO ITS PATH.

WHSSSSSSHHH

HEY! MY TRUCK!

SKRASH

LE RT

THAT @%#&%¢ IDIOT IS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR...

ZACK

"...THE WEST RIVER!

"DIDJA SEE IT?"

"MAYBE IT WAS ONE OF THEM DAREDEVIL TYPES, TRYIN' TA JUMP THE RIVER!"

"TO WHERE? ALL THAT'S OUT THERE IS STRYKER'S ISLAND PRISON, YOU DOOF!"

"PLEASE, JUST CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE..."

"...SOMEONE MAY BE HURT."

"PURGE" IS COMING FOR YOU, MANNHEIM...

"...NOTHING PERSONAL--JUST BUSINESS.!"

MY "DEAL" WITH THE D.A. HAS BEEN ON THE FRONT PAGE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS BY NOW.

THAT'S PLENTY LONG FOR MY INTERGANG CRONIES TO AUTHORIZE MY TERMINATION.

I WOULDN'T HAVE TO RISK ALL THIS IF THE "SCREWS" HADN'T PUT THIS ENERGY DAMPER COLLAR ON ME!

"WHEN GILLESPIE BETRAYED ME. I TRIED TO KILL HIM, BUT HE SURVIVED.*"

"NO DOUBT HE WILL BE THE ONE TO ACTIVATE PURGE."

*IN SUPERMAN #60

AROOO AROOO

WHAT ARE YOU GAWKING AT, MANNHEIM?

A FOOL RUSHING TO HIS DEATH?

NOTHING.

THEY'RE ALL ARMED TO THE TEETH. WHICH MEANS...

"...MY GAMBLE HAS BEGUN TO PAY OFF."

AROOO AROOO

KRAAASH

GOOD GOD! HE'S BROKEN THROUGH THE FIRST CHECKPOINT!

HIT HIM HARD.

"...GIVE HIM A TASTE OF EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!"

OH, COME ON, CLARK. FINISH THIS LAST APPLE TURNOVER.

IF YOU DON'T, YOUR PAW WILL-- AND HE *DOESN'T* NEED IT!

I THINK YOU TALKED HIM INTO IT, MARTHA. I JUST HOPE HE STILL *FITS* INTO HIS TIGHTS AFTER ALL HE ATE!

CLARK'S *NEVER* HAD TO WORRY 'BOUT GAINING WEIGHT, LOIS!

ISN'T HE THE *LUCKY* ONE!

MAY I USE YOUR PHONE? MY MOM WAS GOING TO LEAVE A MESSAGE ON MY ANSWERING MACHINE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU HAVE HER CALL YOU *HERE*, HONEY?

OOPS. CLARK FLIES FASTER THAN ANY OLD JET-PLANE, SO YOU COULDN'T *TELL* THEM YOU WERE PAYING US A VISIT AS WELL!

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YOU-HAVE-TWO-MESSAGES. ÷BEEP÷

HI, IT'S MOM. YOUR SISTER IS HELPING OUT AT THE SHELTER, SO WE'LL ALL VISIT AWHILE 'TIL SHE GETS HOME. LOVE YOU. ÷CLICK÷

LOIS, THIS IS FOSWELL... SOMETHING BIG'S GOING DOWN--

SOUNDS LIKE A *PROBLEM*.

UH-OH--WHEN YOU GET *THAT* LOOK, I KNOW YOU'VE GOT TO FLY OFF SOMEWHERE.

REMEMBER YOU'VE GOT LOIS TO THINK ABOUT NOW. BE CAREFUL.

THE DAILY PLANET CALLED--THERE'S BEEN A BREAK-*IN* AT STRYKER'S ISLAND PRISON...

"...I'VE GOT TO HELP!"

YEAH, RIGHT-- AND PIGS CAN FLY!

BUT MISS RUIZ-- I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES--A BIG ROBOT JUST CAME OUT OF YOUR BASEMENT!

HEY, LOOKIT ME-- I'M A SPACE ALIEN!

KNOCK IT OFF, GROVER--THE LAD'S HAD A TOUCH OF BAD LUCK.

WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A KEY TO THE CELLAR.

YOU LOOK HUNGRY-- PLEASE HELP YOURSELF TO A DOUGHNUT AND COFFEE. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.

MAYBE THEY *REALLY* DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY ROBOTS.

:PSST: THERE WAS A GUY HERE *ONCE* WHO SUCKED THE *LIFE* OUTTA A BUNCH OF FOLK!

UH, GEE-- THAT'S GREAT, BUT...

NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME IN THIS CROWD! I NEED *PROOF*-- AND HERE IT IS! THE CAMERA!

MISS RUIZ, IF I PROVED MY STORY, WOULD YOU LET ME *BREAK* THAT LOCK ON THE BASEMENT DOOR?

SAY, SONNY-- WHERE'D YA GET *MY* CAMERA?

HEY, GIVE IT *BACK*, YOU CRUMMY *THIEF*-- MY *COMEBACK* PICTURE IS IN THAT CAMERA...

HEY! :OUCH: YOUSE KIDS NOWADAYS ARE SO VIOLENT...

"... YOUSE OUGHTTA BE LOCKED UP!"

I NEED BACK-UP HERE ON THE DOUBLE! THIS "THING" HAS SHRUGGED OFF EVERYTHING INCLUDING OUR BAZOOKAS!

CAN'T GET AWAY, NEITHER--A CHUNK OF WHAT USED TO BE THE WALL FLATTENED MY LEGS, BUT GOOD!

THIS ROBOT WON'T BE GIVING YOU ANY MORE TROUBLE, GUARD...

A BAD PUN ABOUT DISARMING COMES TO MIND, BUT I'D BETTER BITE MY TONGUE.

THAT INJURED MAN'S IN NO MOOD FOR JOKING!

RAK

RAK

RAKK

WHUD

KRAKKKK

HO-LEY--! THAT CRAZY LEG KICK JUST NAILED SUPERMAN...

...CLEAR THROUGH A THREE-FOOT-THICK REINFORCED CONCRETE FLOOR!

THAT *ROUNDHOUSE* MOVE CAUGHT ME COMPLETELY OFF-GUARD!

THIS *ROBOT* WOULD PUT A *CONTORTIONIST* TO SHAME!

A SCAN WITH MY X-RAY VISION DOESN'T SHOW ANY FLAMMABLE FUEL SOURCE PRESENT...

...SO I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO *CARVE* THIS TURKEY!

WHRRRRR

HEY!

SNIKT

CLIC

HE'S GROWN *NEW ARMS!* -UHHNN-!

WHACK

WHOA! HE'S A TOUGH ONE ALL RIGHT--RIGHT DOWN TO HIS *REGENERATING* ABILITIES...

THE DAMAGE I DID TO IT WITH MY *HEAT* VISION HAS BEEN *MENDED* ALREADY!

SUPERMAN'S DRAWN HIM AWAY--DOWN TO THE *GENERATOR* ROOM.

I DUNNO, STANLEY--LOOKS TO *ME* LIKE SUPEY'S JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE!

SUPEY PULLED OFF ITS ARMS, AND IT UP AND *GREW* NEW ONES...

...SO HOW DO YOU *FIGHT* A THING LIKE THAT?

WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW *WHY* IT'S *HERE*!

GUARD! GUARD! YOU GOT TO SEE THIS!

YEAH, YER *SLINKIES* ARE GETTING AWAY!

WHAT'RE YOU GUYS *WHINING* ABOUT? THERE'S NOTHING THERE!

THEY WENT AROUND THE CORNER--I *SWEAR* IT!

THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE FAST!

IF THIS ROBOT IS HERE TO HELP SOMEONE BREAK OUT OF STRYKER'S

THWD

...THE BEST THING FOR ME TO DO IS TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US...

...AND THE PRISON COMPLEX!

IT'S GOTTEN TOO QUIET OUT THERE-- SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO PURGE.

IT WAS BUILT TO OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE THAT WOULD PREVENT IT FROM FULFILLING ITS DUTY!

HEH HEH--EVEN I WOULDN'T HAVE RISKED THIS, WITHOUT KNOWING PURGE'S ACHILLES' HEEL--ITS ONE WEAK SPOT...

...THE MICROWAVE RECEIVER CIRCUITRY IN ITS HEAD.

:URK:

IT'S PURGE-- BUT HOW'D IT GET IN HERE?

"FINALLY I CAN TAKE OFF THE KID GLOVES..."

... AND TEAR YOU INTO A MILLION PIECES IF I HAVE TO, IN ORDER TO STOP YOU!

FIRST, THOUGH, LET'S SEE HOW YOU TAKE TO THE WATER!

SPLOOOSH

PROFESSOR HAMILTON WOULD HAVE A FIELD DAY FINDING OUT WHAT MAKES THIS THING THICK!

MY SILENT FRIEND'S INTERNAL WORKINGS ARE QUITE SOPHISTICATED.

IS IT TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR, THAT THE MUCK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WEST RIVER WILL CLOG ITS INTAKE FILTERS?

:GAA-ACK: I CAN BREATHE AGAIN!

THIS @% $&* STUPID DAMPER COLLAR SAVED ME FROM A BROKEN NECK!

"SEEMED TO GO LIMP FOR A MOMENT..."

:YE-URRKK:

CRACK

...CRACKED THE DAMPER-COLLAR-- MY NECK IS NEXT...

"NO DICE--IT'S FORCING US BOTH UP AGAIN!"

BOY, IT'S ALMOST *FRANTIC* IN ITS STRUGGLE TO GET OUT OF THE DRINK.

MAYBE THAT *MUCK* DID *MORE* THAN *GUM* UP HIS WORKS...

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I *BURY* THIS FELLA REALLY *DEEP* IN THE *NASTY STUFF!*

YEP--HE'S *LIMP* AS A *DISHRAG!*

WHAT?!? I WAS ATTACKED BY THE *ARMS?* WHERE'S THE *REST OF PURGE?*

SUPERMAN? I DUNNO-- *SOMETHING* FOUND A WAY TO *SHUT* IT *DOWN*--AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!

I *DON'T* THINK I'LL REPORT *THIS* INCIDENT TO THE WARDEN!

YOU OKAY IN THERE, MANNY? THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING!

THE COCKROACHES GET A LITTLE *LOUD* SOMETIMES, ROGERS!

I JUST *BET.*

I MAY BE ABLE TO USE THESE :--HEH-HEH: "*GUIDED MUSCLES*" TO BUST OUTTA HERE LATER!

„YER TELLIN' ME WE GOT *POLLUTION* TA THANK FER PUTTING THAT ROBOT OUT OF COMMISSION?

SORT OF, *TURPIN*. AFTER YEARS OF *INDUSTRIAL* POLLUTION AND THE DUMPING OF *SLUDGE* FROM *SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS*...

„THE SEDIMENT IN THE RIVER IS LOADED WITH TOXIC *HEAVY METAL* PARTICLES-- INCLUDING *LEAD*...

...WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE *BLOCKED* WHATEVER RADIO SIGNAL WAS GUIDING THE THING!

OUR DIVERS WILL BE SURE TO ENCASE IT IN LEAD BEFORE BRINGIN' IT TOPSIDE!

SURE YOU WON'T BE JOININ' US FOR *TURKEY* AT THE PRECINCT?

NO THANKS, DAN...

"...I HAVE PLANS."

:SOB:

MR. GILLESPIE? I'VE GOT YOUR THANKSGIVING *MEDICATION*!

POOR GUY--BROKEN NECK, DAMAGED LARYNX, TOTALLY *PARALYZED*-- NOT *MUCH* FOR *HIM* TO BE *THANKFUL* FOR!

HEY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR *EYES*? THEY'RE ALL *RED*!

:SOB:

"YOU NEED HELP FAST!"

THIS PLACE REALLY DOES FOLKS A LOT OF GOOD. MISS RUIZ EVEN ASKED ME TO STAY FOR DINNER AFTER WHAT I DID!

AT LEAST WITH MY *CAMERA* BACK, I'LL BE ON MY FEET IN *NO* TIME--*OH NO*--THAT HELPER'S *LUCY LANE*!

I CAN'T LET *HER* SEE ME LIKE *THIS*!

HEY, LOOK OUT!

JIMMY? JIMMY OLSEN?

OH, GOD I'M SO EMBARRASSED! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DON'T LET HER HAVE SEEN ME!

HEY, SLOW DOWN, KID! WHATSAMATTA, THEY SERVIN' CREAMED "MYSTERY MEAT" ON TOAST AGAIN?

UHH--NAH-- I JUST DIDN'T LIKE THE COMPANY!

SAY, I'M GOIN' TO A PLACE THAT SERVES UP A T'ANKSGIVIN' SPREAD LIKE YOU WOULDN'T B'LIEVE! COME WIT' ME!

ANYPLACE BUT HERE SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

"AWRIGHT, RED! BIBBO'S, HERE WE COME!"

SAM LANE, WILL YOU QUIT LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW EVERY FIVE SECONDS!

I'M SORRY, ELLIE-- I JUST WISH SHE COULD HAVE PASSED ON HELPING STRANGERS FOR ONCE, TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY!

HUSH, SAM. LUCY'S DOING A GOOD DEED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO FAMILY TO BE WITH TODAY!

I THINK IT'S GOOD FOR HER TO SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES--

DING

DONG

HI, EVERYONE. SORRY I'M SO LATE.

AT LAST! I'M STARVING!

THANK YOU LORD, FOR THE GIFTS YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS PAST YEAR.

WE ESPECIALLY THANK YOU FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER AS A FAMILY AGAIN.

AMEN. LET'S EAT.

PLEASE CHECK OUT ACTION COMICS #673 ON SALE NEXT WEEK FOR MORE ON JIMMY'S PLIGHT!

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

Friends in Need

THE STREETS OF METROPOLIS ARE USUALLY QUIET ON THANKS-GIVING EVENING.

NOT TONIGHT.

MACK

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MA'AM-- YOU'RE SAFE NOW!

OH--!

ROGER STERN WRITER * BOB McLEOD & DENIS RODIER ARTISTS * BILL OAKLEY LETTERER * GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST * DAN THORSLAND ASSISTANT * MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

NO NEED TO WORRY--

--YOUR BABY SHOULD BE FINE!

YOU MUST EXCUSE ME...

"... I HAVE A *HIJACKER* TO CATCH!"

@#*₹!!

HE WAS GONE ALL DURIN' THE POWER BLACKOUT,* WHY COULDN'T HE'VE BEEN OUTTA TOWN TONIGHT?!

'SALL THAT FAT *HIPPO'S* FAULT! IF SHE HADN'T WADDLED OUT INTA THE STREET--!

*ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #484 AND ALL THE SUPER-TITLES THROUGH SUPERMAN #62!

HOW *DARE* YOU BLAME AN INNOCENT WOMAN FOR YOUR *OWN* CULPABILITY!

IF YOU HADN'T RUN THE RED LIGHT AND THREATENED HER LIFE, EVEN I MIGHT NOT HAVE NOTICED YOU AND YOUR BOOTY!

BRA-TAT-TAT-TAT

KRUNK

NO! NO!!

OH, YES! AND NOW...

"... YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!"

THAT WAS FAST WORK, SUPERMAN! YOU SHOWED UP JUST AS WE GOT THE HIJACKING REPORT!

AHH, HE WAS LUCKY, THAT'S ALL!

AND YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DIDN'T RUN DOWN THAT WOMAN!

DISPATCH CONFIRMED THAT SHE'S ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN. A PATROL CAR IS TAKING HER HOME.

AS FOR THIS FOOL-- NOT THAT HE DESERVES IT, BUT-- WE HAVE SOME LEFT-OVER THANKSGIVING DINNER AND A WARM BED WAITING FOR HIM.

THAT'S MORE THAN MANY WILL HAVE TONIGHT.

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN.

WOTTA GUY-- HE EVEN WORKS *HOLIDAYS*! I MEAN, AT LEAST WE GET OVER-TIME!

YEAH, AND FROM WHAT I HEARD, HE SPENT A *GOOD* BIT OF THE MORNING--

POLICE 12TH PRECINCT

"--OUT AT STRYKER'S ISLAND, STOPPING SOME SORT OF BREAK-IN! CAN YOU IMAGINE? WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO BREAK *INTO* THAT PLACE?"

THIS IS RICH...

...GILLESPIE SENT THE *PURGE ROBOT* TO SILENCE ME... KEEP ME FROM TALKING TO THE D.A. ABOUT INTERGANG OPERATIONS... JUST AS I'D HOPED!*

THE LITTLE WEASEL DIDN'T REALIZE HE WAS GIVING ME THE MEANS TO BUST OUT OF HERE!

*ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #486, STILL ON SALE!

I'D ALREADY BE FREE, IF *SUPERMAN* HADN'T BUTTED IN! HE NEARLY RUINED EVERYTHING. I COULDN'T SEE THE FIGHT...

...BUT HE MUST'VE RIPPED PURGE *APART!* 'SA GOOD THING HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE MICRO-GUIDANCE SYSTEMS IN PURGE'S EXTREMITIES!

I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT TO ME THROUGH THE DUCTWORK WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING THAT THEY WERE MISSING!

BLASTED THINGS CAME CLOSE TO *THROTTLING* ME, BEFORE--! UH-OH... GUARD COMING!

'EVENING, MANNHEIM... ENJOY YOUR DINNER?

IT WAS ALL RIGHT.

I NOTICED YOU CLEANED YOUR PLATE. YOU STAY OUTTA TROUBLE--

--AND JUST MAYBE THERE'LL BE "SECONDS" AT CHRISTMASTIME! HA-HA-HAH-HA-HA!

YOU WOULDN'T LAUGH SO HARD IF YOU KNEW THAT PURGE'S ARMS CRACKED THIS *DAMPER COLLAR!* NOW THAT IT'S NO LONGER SAPPING MY POWER--

--I COULD WRAP THESE BARS AROUND YOUR UGLY *NECK*... ONLY YOU'RE NOT WORTH THE EFFORT!

THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER GUARD AROUND FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR. THAT'S JUST ENOUGH TIME...

"...TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE!"

IT FELT GOOD TO STOP THAT HIJACKER!

TEAM-LUTHOR HAS MAINTAINED SUCH A PRESENCE -- HELPING TO RESTORE ORDER IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BIG BLACKOUT* -- I WAS BEGINNING TO WONDER IF METROPOLIS NEEDED ME ANYMORE!

SOME SUPERMAN I'VE BEEN! IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT I WASN'T HERE TO HELP THE CITY THROUGH THE BLACKOUT...

...BUT, I'VE BEEN SO CAUGHT UP IN THINGS, I WASN'T EVEN AROUND TO HELP ONE OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS! HE MAY BE *DESTITUTE*... OUT ON THE STREETS...

* AS SEEN LAST ISSUE! HOPE YOU DIDN'T MISS IT!

"... AND WHAT'S WORSE, I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF HOW BAD OFF HE WAS UNTIL THIS EVENING..."

ROUGH DAY AT THE SHELTER, SIS? YOU JUST PICKED AT YOUR DINNER!

YOU'RE SURELY IN THE MOOD FOR DESSERT, LUCY... IT'S YOUR FAVORITE!

I... I'M SURE IT'S DELICIOUS, BUT... I'M JUST NOT HUNGRY.

WHEN YOU PASS UP MOM'S PUMPKIN PIE, SOMETHING IS *WRONG*! NOW WHAT IS IT?

IT'S... J-JIMMY!

THIS EVENING, I SAW HIM WHILE I WAS WORKING AT THE HOMELESS SHELTER...*

* *ADVENTURES* #486.

"... HE LOOKED JUST *AWFUL*! HE RAN OFF WHEN I CALLED HIS NAME, BUT I'M CERTAIN IT WAS HIM!

THIS IS JIMMY *OLSEN* YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

I HAD DINNER WITH HIM JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO. I KNOW THAT HE'D HAD IT ROUGH SINCE HE WAS FIRED FROM THE *PLANET*, BUT HE ASSURED ME THAT HE WAS GETTING BY.

WELL, HE *WASN'T*! I KNEW THAT HE WAS EVICTED ... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WAS... *HOMELESS*! AND NOW I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* HE IS!

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN...! JIMMY... ALONE ON THANKSGIVING...

THIS IS HORRIBLE!

DON'T WORRY, LOIS...

"... IF OUR YOUNG MR. OLSEN CAN BE FOUND, I'LL FIND HIM!"

THIS IS THE FIRST PLACE TO START SEARCHING. I COULD'VE BEEN HERE A LOT SOONER, IF NOT FOR THAT HIJACKER.

PETER SHOEMAKER HOMELESS SHELTER

FUNNY... IT WAS THROUGH JIMMY'S EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE THE PLIGHT OF ONE HOMELESS MAN,* THAT THIS SHELTER WAS OPENED.

*IN ADVENTURES #445.

TO THINK THAT JIMMY HIMSELF MIGHT'VE COME HERE...!

THANKS, MRS. RUIZ! YER A REAL LIFESAVER!

HEY, LOOKIT!

GOOD EVENING, ELENA.

WELL, *SUPERMAN!* DON'T TELL ME THAT *YOU* MISSED YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER! WE STILL HAVE SOME LEFT-OVERS ON THE STEAM TABLE--!

THANK YOU, NO. I'M LOOKING FOR A FRIEND WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN HERE EARLIER... A YOUNG FELLOW WITH RED HAIR... ABOUT 5'7"... I BROUGHT A PHOTO--!

HMM... HE LOOKS FAMILIAR...

WAIT A MINUTE! HE'S THE ONE WHO SAID HE SAW A *ROBOT!*

ROBOT?

SNAP!

HOW COULD I FORGET? LATER ON...

"... HE GOT INTO A FIGHT OVER SOME CHEAP CAMERA!"

NEARLY HAD MY HEAD HANDED TO ME BACK THERE...

... BUT AT LEAST I MANAGED TO HANG ONTO THIS! IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT THE FILM INSIDE IS THE ONLY PROOF THAT I REALLY SAW THAT ROBOT!

YEAH, FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO ME!

HEY, RED, YOU STILL WIT' ME?

LexPak 35mm disposable CAMERA

HUH?! OH, YEAH. WHY?

JUST MAKIN' SURE... YOU WERE GETTIN' AWFUL QUIET BACK 'DERE. ANYWAYS, HERE WE ARE. HOW'S YOUR APPETITE?

I'M STARVED! YOU'RE SURE IT'S OKAY?

WHAT, YOU KIDDIN' ME?

NOBODY GETS TURNED AWAY WHEN BIBBO T'ROWS A PARTY!

'EY, BIBBO! HAPPY T'ANKSGIVIN'!!

SAME TA YOU, HIGH-POCKETS! WE WUZ WONDERIN' WHERE YA'D GOTTEN TO!

FOUND ANUDDER HUNGRY MOUT' ALONG DA WAY!

'EY, LAMARR! HOWZIT GOIN'?

ALREADY TWO DRUMSTICKS AHEAD A' YA, MAN!

UH, HI, BIBBO!

RED! GOOD TA SEE YA!

HERE, FILL YERSELF A PLATTER!

I STILL GOT LOADS OF THANKS TO BE GIVIN', WHAT WIT' WINNIN' THE LOTTERY DIS YEAR--SO EVERYTHING'S ON DA HOUSE!

WE GOT ANYTHING YA WANT... TURKEY, SMOKED SALMON, KIELBASA, LASAGNA YOU NAME IT! IF YA CAN'T FIND IT HERE, IT AIN'T BEEN INVENTED!

WOW... SOME SPREAD.

"YES, MY FRIENDS--"

--I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE MOST LAVISH TABLE I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY YOUNG LIFE!

THEN AGAIN, WE DIDN'T HAVE YOUR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY IN OZ!

OZ?

THAT'S WHAT WE CALL AUSTRALIA, M' DEAR!

HERE'S TO THAT SAINTED LAND... AND TO YOU FINE FOLK WHO ARE GOING TO HELP ME LIFT LEXCORP TO NEW HEIGHTS OF GLORY!

HEAR, HEAR!

AND HERE'S TO LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND, WHOSE PROMOTIONS HAVE GIVEN US ALL REASON TO GIVE THANKS!

INDEED!

FRANKLY, MR. L--

--A LOT OF US WERE UPDATING OUR RESUMES UNTIL YOU TOOK OVER.

SOME OF THE BOARD MEMBERS WERE COOL TO THE IDEA OF NEW BLOOD IN MANAGEMENT... NONE MORE SO THAN GEORGE MARKHAM...

NOT TO WORRY, MIRIAM.

I'VE HAD A LONG CHAT WITH THE DIRECTORS--

"--AND I DOUBT THAT ANY OF THEM WILL GIVE US FURTHER PROBLEMS... PARTICULARLY MR. MARKHAM!"

GOTHAM CITY... OF ALL PLACES TO BE ON THANKSGIVING!

WHY DID HE HAVE TO INSIST ON MY MEETING HIM HERE?

I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS. LUTHOR HAD THE GOODS ON ME FOR YEARS... I NEVER *DARED* STRIKE BACK AT *HIM*...

...BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO KOWTOW TO HIS @#*%!! SON!

GEORGE MARKHAM?

EH?

WHO SAID THAT? WHO'S THERE?!

WHO DO YOU THINK? WE DID SET AN APPOINTMENT!

THAT *WAS* A STUPID QUESTION! MY GOD, THAT *VOICE*--!

WH-WHERE ARE YOU?

OVER *HERE*, MARKHAM. COME CLOSER!

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE SENT SOMEONE IN MY PLACE!

BUT NO... THERE'S NO ONE I COULD TRUST.

HOW DO I EVEN KNOW I CAN TRUST THIS ONE? WHAT AM I *DOING* HERE?!

WHERE? I... I DON'T SEE YOU!

NO? BUT I SEE YOU!

WHA--?!

COME HERE! LET ME GET A BETTER LOOK AT YOU!

SO! YOU ARE THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY WHO WISHES TO BUY MY SERVICES!

Y-YOU HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE!

I KNOW!

FLIK

L-LOOK, YOU...

...I'M NOT IN THE HABIT OF EMPLOYING PEOPLE WHOM I CAN'T SEE--!

SEEN ENOUGH?

REALLY, MARKAM, WHY DID YOU THINK THAT I CALL MYSELF... *HELLGRAMMITE?*

GYAHH!

THIS, I TAKE IT, IS THE INFORMATION I ASKED FOR?

Y-YES...

...TH-THAT'S THE ONE WHO'S GIVING ME TROUBLE!

YOUNG LEX LUTHOR!

STANDING IN THE WAY OF YOUR EMPIRE BUILDING, IS HE?

THE PRICE FOR HIS ELIMINATION WILL BE STEEP.

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE NUMBER OF A CERTAIN SWISS BANK ACCOUNT...

...DEPOSIT FIVE MILLION DOLLARS THEREIN, AND I SHALL GO TO WORK. UPON LUTHOR'S DEATH, YOU SHALL DEPOSIT ANOTHER FIVE MILLION.

A... A TRANSACTION OF THAT SIZE WILL TAKE TIME.

...IF NO MONIES ARE TRANSFERRED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, I JUST MIGHT PAY YOU A VISIT... A *FREE* VISIT!

NOW GO!

WHAT HAVE I DONE? I'VE MADE A DEAL WITH A *DEVIL!*

MEANWHILE...

PETER SHOEMAKER HOMELESS SHELTER

OH, COME NOW! IT'S WAY TOO WEIRD TO BE TRUE!

IT MAY SEEM THAT WAY, ELENA--

-- BUT IF JIMMY OLSEN SAID THAT HE SAW A ROBOT COME OUT OF YOUR BASEMENT GRATING, I'D GIVE HIS REPORT THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT!

I MYSELF FOUGHT A ROBOT JUST A FEW HOURS AGO!

BUT EVEN I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE BASEMENT--IT WAS SEALED OFF BY THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY THAT GAVE US THE BUILDING!

WHY WOULD A ROBOT BE DOWN THERE?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION!

RRENNNKK!

... WHY IS THE BASEMENT OF THIS BUILDING LINED WITH A LAYER OF LEAD?

TO SHIELD SOMETHING RADIOACTIVE? OR, PERHAPS, TO HAMPER MY X-RAY VISION?

HERE'S ANOTHER...

SUPERMAN!

OMIGOD!

CALL 9-1-1! ASK FOR THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT... HURRY!

ELENA, GET BACK!!

TZING

TZING

TZING

GYARRGHH!

NOW WHAT HAVE I BEEN PULLED INTO?!

VROO-VROO-VROO

SOME SORT OF... AUTOMATED DEFENSE SYSTEM?

YES, MUST BE... THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANYONE ELSE DOWN HERE.

GOOD...

...BECAUSE I AM *THROUGH* WITH PLAYING TARGET!

KRUNK

SCRACK

THOSE BLASTED LITTLE RAYS HURT!

THIS HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF AN *INTERGANG* OPERATION!

IT'S MADDENING... I'VE WRECKED THEIR ORGANIZATION, PUT THEIR LEADERS BEHIND BARS...

...HOW MANY MORE ENCLAVES ARE THERE LEFT TO SHUT DOWN?!

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THIS--

--THAAAGGHH!!

"SOMETIMES, THINGS JUST GET THE BETTER OF US..."

...YA KNOW, MOM? I MEAN, I WANTED TO BE WITH YOU FOR THANKSGIVING--!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, JIMMY. I UNDERSTAND... YOUR WORK IS IMPORTANT. I WAS JUST SO WORRIED... IT'S SO LATE!

YEAH... WELL... IT'S THREE HOURS EARLIER HERE IN CALIFORNIA... AND... UH... I SORTA LOST TRACK OF TIME. I'M SORRY...

...GEEZ, I HATE THIS...

...BUT, MISSING THE FLIGHT AND ALL, IT'LL BE AWHILE BEFORE I CAN GET BACK NOW.

I MEAN... THIS ASSIGNMENT'S GONNA KEEP ME HOPPING. LOOK, I... I'LL TRY TO VISIT YOU AS SOON AS I CAN... OKAY?

YEAH... YEAH, I LOVE YOU, TOO, MOM.

DID I HEAR WHAT I T'OUGHT I HEARD?

OOP.

IT AIN'T RIGHT TO *LIE* TO YER OWN MUDDER! PARTIC'LARLY NOT ON A HOLIDAY--

--AN' *ESPECIALLY* NOT ON MY *PHONE*!! WHAT'S YER PROBLEM, RED?

I GOT A MILLION OF 'EM, BIBBO. I DIDN'T WANT TO LIE TO MOM, BUT I DON'T WANT HER WORRYING ABOUT ME, EITHER.

NOTHING'S GONE RIGHT FOR ME LATELY... I'VE LOST MY JOB, MY APARTMENT... AND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING BUT WHAT I'M WEARING!

RIGHT NOW MY NET ASSETS ARE THIRTY-EIGHT CENTS AND A DISPOSABLE CAMERA!

MAN, IF JUST A COUPLE OF THE PICTURES I TOOK CAME OUT RIGHT, I COULD SELL THEM AND SHOW UP THE JERK WHO FIRED ME!

AW, WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT? I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THEM DEVELOPED... I CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A CUP OF COFFEE!

IZZAT SO? 'EY, DON'T WORRY, RED, YER TROUBLES'LL SOON BE OVER... JUS' LEAVE IT TO BIBBO!

"I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE THE DAWN..."

SUPERMAN'S Pal

...BUT DAWN IS STILL MANY HOURS AWAY, CAPTAIN!

I KNOW, PROFESSOR--

--AND I'M SORRY I HAD TO ROUST YOU OUT ON THANKSGIVING--

--BUT A FOLLOW-UP CALL WE RECEIVED SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED YOUR PRESENCE!

WHAT A MESS!

THIS WAY, MAGGIE!

AH, SUPERMAN! I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOUR HANDIWORK WITHOUT!

YOU SENT FOR ME?

YES, EMIL... I WANT YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS EQUIPMENT.

WHAT IS ALL THIS?

I'M NOT CERTAIN, MAGGIE, BUT IT COULD BE THE POINT OF ORIGIN FOR THAT ROBOT I STOPPED AT THE PRISON TODAY!

FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN HERE, THIS VAULT DEFINITELY CONTAINED SOMETHING... AND THE LEVEL OF WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY MATCHES THAT USED BY INTERGANG!

INTERGANG! THAT EXPLAINS WHY EVERYTHING WAS SO TRASHED IN THE OUTER CORRIDOR!

YES... WELL... I'M AFRAID I LOST MY TEMPER... A BIT.

UNDERSTANDABLE.

HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO FIND THIS PLACE?

PURELY BY ACCIDENT. I WAS ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR--

SUPERMAN... CAPTAIN SAWYER! OH, THIS IS SIMPLY AMAZING!

WHAT IS IT, EMIL?

I BELIEVE THAT THIS CIRCUITRY IS TAPPED INTO SOME SORT OF BROADCAST POWER NETWORK! SUCH A SYSTEM.

"...COULD TRANSMIT MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE!"

RECEIVER UNIT FROM PURGE'S LEFT ARM WILL GIVE ME ALL THE POWER I NEED.

217345

"NOW, IF THE CIRCUITS I COBBLED TOGETHER FROM THE RIGHT ARM CAN STAND UP TO THE JUICE JUST LONG ENOUGH..."

...Y-E-A-H! IT'S WORKING! A *BOOM TUBE* IS FORMING!

SCRRREEEEEEEEEEE!

WHAT THE DEVIL--?!

MANNHEIM!

BOOM

YOW!

WHA--WHAT HAPPENED?!

THAT WAS NO ORDINARY EXPLOSION! IT SOUNDED LIKE THE GRANDDADDY OF ALL THUNDERCLAPS--

--BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY MAJOR DAMAGE TO THE CELL... NO SIGN OF ANYTHING... *INCLUDING* MANNHEIM!

"WHAT THE DEVIL *HAPPENED* TO HIM?!"

AND THEY THOUGHT THAT FLIMSY CAGE WOULD HOLD ME? *HAH!* NO EARTHER CELL CAN HOLD SOMEONE WHO FOUGHT HIS WAY OUT OF THE LOWEST DEPTHS OF *ARMAGETTO!*

THIS IS MANNHEIM--SECURITY CHECK DELTA!

ACKNOWLEDGED ... OUTPOST #12 IS SECURE.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE... SEEING AS HOW I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN INTERGANG WHO KNEW ABOUT IT!

THANKS, COMPUTER. NOW I CAN FINALLY DITCH THIS HUNK OF JUNK AND GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

ACCESS CODE NINE!

SNAP

SHR-R-RIP

IMPLEMENTED ... STORAGE BAY OPEN.

DYNAMITE! MY BACKUP *BIO-ARMOR* IS ALL READY FOR IMPLANTATION!

SUPERMAN TORE MY ORIGINAL ARMOR *SYMBIONT* OFF ME WHEN WE GRAPPLED UNDERWATER.*

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO THIS ONE!

*IN SUPERMAN #60.

AH... YES...

FAP FAP FAP FAP FAP

...NOW I'M *WHOLE* AGAIN!

NOW I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!

ACCESS CODE-- GAMMA-SIX-ALPHA!

IMPLEMENTED ... VAULT SEVEN OPEN.

THERE... THE *NUKE* THAT PROFESSOR KILLGRAVE PROCURED FOR ME...

... MY LITTLE ACE-IN-THE-HOLE! I HAVE BIG PLANS FOR YOU! METROPOLIS MAY HAVE BROKEN INTERGANG... BUT YOU ARE GOING TO *ATOMIZE* METROPOLIS!

AROO AROO AROO

WARNING... SECURITY BREACH...

GET AWAY FROM THAT BOMB, MANNHEIM-- NOW!

KRTOOM

SUPERMAN! HOW--?

HOW DID I FIND YOU? THAT'S A TRADE SECRET!

PROFESSOR HAMILTON GAVE ME A FIX ON THIS PLACE BY TRACKING ENERGY FLOWS ON YOUR POWER SYSTEM ... BUT I'M NOT TELLING YOU THAT!

REAL SMART GUY, AIN'TCHA?

BWHAM

OW.

BUT NOT SO SMART THAT I CAN'T TEACH YOU A FEW THINGS!

WHEN WE LAST FOUGHT, MANNHEIM CLAIMED TO BE FROM APOKOLIPS...

KRINK

... AND AFTER THE BATTLE HE GAVE ME THEN, I COULD BELIEVE IT!

BUT RIGHT NOW, I DON'T CARE IF HE'S ONE OF DARKSEID'S ELITE WARRIORS!

YOU'RE CRAZY, IF YOU THOUGHT THAT YOU COULD NUKE A MAJOR CITY AND GET AWAY WITH IT!

YOU'RE THROUGH, MANNHEIM! JUST LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION!

HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE A LONG TIME AGO!

I COULD SAY THAT I'M WRAPPING UP LOOSE ENDS... BUT I DOUBT THAT YOU'D SEE THE HUMOR!

EHN... OH, *FUNNY MAN!* UHN... *REAL* FUNNY!

ZZAKK!

ZTOK

LAUGH THAT OFF!!

UUUNGH... I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT THOSE EYE BEAMS OF HIS!

SUPERMAN, HUH? BIG DEAL!

I CAN TAKE YOU OUT JUST BY STARING HARD!

DON'T BET THE FARM ON THAT!

Y-YOU THINK THAT CRUMMY HEAT VISION OF YOURS CAN STAND UP TO MY BEAMS? THE SECOND YOU **BLINK**, YOU'RE... YOU'RE *HISTORY!*

WE'LL SEE WHO BLINKS FIRST.

HE,,, HE'S GOT ME OUTCLASSED! MY BEAMS ARE ALREADY STARTING TO FADE...

,,, BUT HIS SEEM AS STRONG AS EVER! I HAVEN'T FELT SUCH HEAT THIS SIDE OF THE GREAT *FIRE PITS!* HOW LONG CAN HE KEEP THIS UP?!

GIVE UP, MANNHEIM!

NEVER!

COMPUTER,,, CODE 12,,, CYCLE AND KEY ON MY COMMAND!

YOU'RE CRACKING UP, MANNHEIM --

--THERE'S *NOTHING* BEYOND THAT WALL BUT SOLID BEDROCK! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THAT WAY!

WATCH ME!

NOW!

A BOOM TUBE!

SCREEE

LATER, SUPERMAN!

HE'LL BE THROUGH THAT DIMENSIONAL WARP AND GONE TO WHO-KNOWS-WHERE BEFORE I CAN STOP HIM ...

,,, UNLESS I SHUT THE GATE!

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY! *NOT THIS TIME!*

SSSSSSSSS

CHA-ZTAK

CHAK

NO! YOU CAN'T CUT THE BRIDGING CIRCUIT... *NOT NOW! NOT NOWWWWW!*

"I SUPPOSE THAT HORRIBLE SCREAM LASTED LESS THAN A SECOND.

"IT ONLY SEEMED AS IF IT WENT ON FOREVER.

"THE BOOM TUBE FADED OUT ALMOST INSTANTLY.

"THERE WAS NO SIGN TO INDICATE THAT MANNHEIM HAD EVER BEEN THERE... EXCEPT FOR A SMALL PILE OF ASH.

"THERE WAS THE BOMB, OF COURSE.

"IT COULD HAVE DESTROYED METROPOLIS... AND MANNHEIM WOULD HAVE USED IT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, I KNOW ... HE WAS AN ABSOLUTE MANIAC ON THAT SCORE! BUT, EVEN SO..."

... I SHOULD NEVER HAVE GIVEN HIM THE CHANCE TO ACTIVATE THAT TUBE!

CLARK, YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM... BUT YOU HAD TO STOP HIM. AND, WELL, WHO KNOWS... MAYBE MANNHEIM SOMEHOW SURVIVED!

MAYBE, BUT IT STILL BOTHERS ME THE WAY I LET MY ANGER AND FRUSTRATION OVER INTERGANG GET TO ME! I WAS FIGHTING MANNHEIM ON HIS TERMS... I SHOULD'VE FOUND A BETTER WAY--!

OH, HONEY... LOOK AT IT THIS WAY... YOU KEPT HIM FROM USING THAT BOMB AND SAVED 11 MILLION LIVES... THAT SHOULD COUNT FOR SOMETHING!

YES... YOU'RE RIGHT... I JUST WISH IT HAD ENDED DIFFERENTLY.

I KNOW... BUT WE CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT WE WANT!

THAT'S FOR SURE...

"... I NEVER DID MANAGE TO FIND JIMMY OLSEN!"

C'MON, RED, I SAID YA COULD PAY ME BACK LATER... WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

OPEN 24 HOURS
DRUGS

OH, NOTHING, BIBBO... BUT I WISH WE COULD'VE FOUND A PLACE THAT DEVELOPED FILM ON-PREMISES.

'EY, WE WUZ LUCKY TO FIND ANYPLACE OPEN ON THANKSGIVIN'... BESIDES, DIN'T THE CLERK SAY THEM DISPOSABLE CAMERAS ARE SPECIAL?

YEAH... THEY HAVE TO BE MAILED TO A LEXCORP PROCESSOR. I JUST HATE TRUSTING ANY KIND OF FILM TO A MAILER! ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR!

OH, WELL... HERE GOES--!

RELAX, RED... YOU'LL GETCHUR PITCHERS! AN' IN THE MEAN-TIME, YOU CAN BUNK AT MY PLACE... I GOT PLENTY O' ROOM!

WELL... I DID USE YOUR ADDRESS ON THE MAILER... AND I DO NEED A PLACE TO STAY--!

'AT'S THE SPIRIT! YOU'LL SEE...

"... EVER'THING'LL WORK OUT FOR THE BEST!"

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HAD SO MUCH FUN ADDRESS-ING ANYTHING, PETER... NOT EVEN CHRISTMAS CARDS!

WELL, IF YOU START GETTING A WRITER'S CRAMP, I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE OVER!

I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND! WHO'S NEXT ON THE LIST?

UH... CLARK KENT.

CLARK...?

HONEY, WE COULDN'T VERY WELL INVITE HIS PARENTS AND NOT INVITE HIM!

I KNOW WHAT CLARK MEANT TO YOU... ARE YOU HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS?

N-NO, PETER... I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT IN MY LIFE... AND WHOM. OF COURSE, WE MUST INVITE CLARK...

...AND HIS FIANCÉE. I'VE MET LOIS LANE, YOU KNOW... SHE'S A WONDERFUL PERSON..

...I HOPE THAT THEY'RE AS HAPPY TOGETHER AS WE ARE!

The honor of your presence is requested at the marriage ceremony of
Lana Elizabeth Lang
and
Peter Joseph Ross

AND THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY IS LIKEWISE REQUESTED NEXT MONTH, WHEN...

THE PAST IS PROLOGUE!

THE ARENA IS READY FOR SUPERMAN'S INCARCERATION, SIR

EXCELLENT, JOSEF.

SUPERMAN HAS BEEN A THORN IN MY SIDE THWARTING ME AND MINE FOR MUCH TOO LONG NOW

WHEN YOU KIDNAP LOIS LANE HE IS CERTAIN TO COME AFTER HER..

..AND HE WILL EASILY FALL INTO THE TRAP I HAVE SET FOR HIM

YOU AND BLOCKHOUSE WILL CONFRONT HIM BUT LOIS LANE THAT HE TRUSTS...

DACY'S

SHE'S COME OUT OF HER BUILDING BUT NO CAR-MAGE BUT SUPERMAN'S MUCH TOO NEAR FOR COMFORT

FIRE!

GO ON! NOW! IMPLEMENT THE DISTRACTION!

WITH THE PLEASURE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

RUN!

THE DACY'S FREE.

POWER TRIP!

Brought to you by:
LOUISE SIMONSON
writer
KIERON DWYER
guest artist
DENNIS JANKE
inker
BILL OAKLEY
letterer
GLENN WHITMORE
color art
DAN THORSLAND
assistant editor
MIKE CARLIN
editor
X
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

THANK HEAVEN!

IT'S SUPERMAN!

HE'S IN TROUBLE!

MOMENTUM'S FORCING HIM DOWN!

WE'LL BE CRUSHED!

NO!

AW RIIIGHT!

THE MAN'S AWESOME.

WAY TO GO SUPERMAN!

NOT BAD HUH? I HAD HIM SWEATIN' FOR A MINUTE THERE!

NOT FOR NEARLY LONG ENOUGH!

I OLD DID WHAT YOU SA D! WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE G VEN ENOUGH STRENGTH TO DEAL W TH THAT TREE...

DOESN T MEAN YOU LL HAVE SUCH AN EASY T ME SUBDU NG SUPERMAN, EVEN W TH MY HELP!

QUIT BEING SO COCKY, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND DOLT!

WE MUST TAKE THE SHORT TIME SUPERMAN REMAINS DISTRACTED...

"...TO SEIZE THE WOMAN!"

LAST OF THE CHRISTMAS CARDS EXCEPT FOR THE ONE I HAVE FOR JIMMY OLSEN.

I WISH I KNEW WHERE HE WAS... I FEEL SO GUILTY...

...SURE HE LOST HIS JOB, BUT HE ST LL SEEMED PRETTY CARE-FREE!

I NEVER GUESSED HE COULDN'T MAKE HIS RENT.

WHY DIDN T HE SAY SOME-THING I'D HAVE HELPED... WE D HAVE HELPED IF ONLY WE'D KNOWN--

"... HE WAS IN TROUBLE."

YEIIIIII!

DON'T WORRY, JIMMY! I GOTCHA!

THANKS, BIBBO! I, UH, SLIPPED!

NO KIDDIN'? THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WUZ TRYIN' A NEW DANCE STEP UP THERE ON TOP O' THE LADDER!

THIS IS JUST ONE MORE THING I'VE GOT TO THANK YOU FOR

FERGET IT! IT'S ME WHO OUGHTA BE THANKIN YOU!

EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE ACE O' CLUBS WUZ TOO T'PSY TA PUT THE STAR ON TOP O' OUR TREE!

SO DRINK UP, JIMMY!

WAY HE DINED OFF THAT LADDER, HARD T' BELIEVE 'AT ALL HE'S HAD'S SODER COLA!

ALL THE CHEMICALS IN THAT DIET STUFF MADE IM DIZZY

DANGEROUS STUFF I CUNT DRINK IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M FLYIN--

"...LIKE ONE A' THEM CHRISTMAS ANGELS."

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, MISS LANE!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S GOING ON?

THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW AN' YOU TO FIND OUT!

SORRY I DON'T HAVE TIME TO HANG AROUND...

AND PLAY TWENTY QUESTIONS!

KLANG

NICE MOVE ANYBODY BUT ME YOU'D HAVE COOLED THEIR JETS!

AS IT IS YOU JUST PUNCHED A HOLE IN A MAIL BOX!

ALL THAT TIME SPENT ADDRESSING CARDS UP IN A SPOUT OF FLAME! IT'S ALMOST WORSE THAN BEING KIDNAPPED!

STILL, IF I'M LUCKY THIS MIGHT TURN INTO A STORY!

YOU KNOW WHO I AM— THAT MEANS YOU GRABBED ME, SPECIFICALLY— ON PURPOSE!

THAT WE DID... AN' WHEN BOLT GETS YOU PROPERLY OBED ENT.

... THEN WE USE YOU TO LURE SUPERMAN INTO OUR TRAP!

WHY DID I KNOW HE WAS GOING TO SAY THAT?

YOU'RE CYBORGS, AREN'T YOU? YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO WORK FOR CERBERUS--?

WHY... YEAH! HOW'D YOU KNOW--?

THAT'S ENOUGH, BLOCK-HOLDE.

AW JOLT WHAT'S IT MATTER--?

A FEW MORE MINUTES AN YOU'LL HAVE HER SO SHE ONLY KNOWS AN' DOES WHAT WE TELL HER TO!

BUT UH MAYBE YOU BETTER HURRY UP AN SHUT THE SKYLIGHT, ANYWAY!

W.R.R.R.R.R.R

AMAZING MAYBE YOU'RE DEVELOPING SOME JUDGMENT, AFTER ALL.

NO, THEY WON'T BE READY FOR SUPERMAN BUT - I'M ZONKED, OR SOMETHING

SO THE BEST TIME FOR SUPERMAN TO SHOW UP IS NOW

SUPERMAN! HELP! HELP!

IT'S A LONG SHOT! CLARK COULD BE ANYWHERE! I ONLY HOPE--

"—HE'S IN HEARING RANGE!"

EVERYONE STAND BACK!

SSSSSS

WHAT'S HE DOIN'?

BURNIN' A HOLE 'N THE GROUND W TH H S HEAT VISION!

HE PLT THAT HUGE TREE RIGHT HERE IN LINCOLN PARK.

MYRA SAYS THE SHELTER CAN T AFFORD CHRISTMAS TREES AN STUFF TH S YEAR ..

..WE GOT TOO MANY K DS WHO NEED FOOD AN CLOTHES

NO DECORATIONS? I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DO SOMETH NG ABOUT THAT

...BUT NOW WE CAN LOOK OUT THE W NDOW AN SEE THIS ONE ANY TIME WE WANT--

SUPERMAN, WHAT S WRONG?

SUPERMAN HELP. HELP!

LOIS! SHE'S IN TROUBLE!

HER VO'CE SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM OVER BY--

"--THE WATERFRONT!"

IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA S T ST-- AND LET YOU PLAY FRANKENSTEIN YOU CAN THINK AGAIN.

WOW! THAT TOOK NERVE...

NOT MUCH BRAINS, BUT A LOT OF NERVE.

BLOCKHOUSE, YOU DOLT. RELEASE HER--

--NOW!

I LIKE TWHEN MY VICTIMS HAVE SPIRIT!

IT MAKES TAMING THEM SO MUCH MORE PLEASURABLE!

KRAKK!

YOU'RE ONE TWISTED PIECE OF SCRAP METAL, AREN'T YOU, JOLT?

LIKE I SAID I LIKE IT WHEN YOU SHOW A LITTLE LIFE

TOO BAD IT NEVER LASTS..!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? ARMS..SO HEAVY.. LEGS WEAK HARDLY... MOVE.. MUST BE. THE WHIP..

WHAT NOW? KEEP HER TALKING.. PLAY FOR TIME...

...TRY TO GOAD HER INTO DOING SOMETHING STUPID...

YOU SKULL-FACED, ANOREXIC MONSTROSITY!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL CRUMPLE LIKE A DENTED FENDER...

...BENT METAL... SEEMS MORE YOUR.. LINE..?

YOU THINK SO? THEN WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT CERBERUS HAS PLANNED FOR YOU!

MY WHIP REMOVED YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH..

THIS COLLAR WILL STEAL YOUR STRENGTH OF WILL!

THE LONGER YOU WEAR IT, THE MORE ANXIOUS YOU WILL BE TO PLEASE ME...

...THE MORE EAGERLY YOU WILL AWAIT MY SLIGHTEST ORDER!

SNAP!

SHACKLE HER, UNTIL THE PROGRAMMING IN THE COLLAR PUTS HER UNDER OUR CONTROL!

ONLY THEN CAN WE ALLOW HER TO CONTACT SUPERMAN!

FUNNY THING I COULDA SWORE SHE ALREADY DID.

THAT'S NOT FUNNY BLOCKHOUSE

I DIDN'T MEAN TA BE...LOOK!

BUT--WE'RE NOT READY FOR WAR YET

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

KRAKK!

HE HEARD ME HE'S COMING. NOW HE'LL SEE ME

AH BUT HE CAN'T!

THIS BU[illegible]NG IS [illegible]NED WITH LEAD! HE'D FLY ING PAST UD--

"--OUT OVER THE OCEAN!"

LAST TIME THAT HAPPENED, CERBERUS WAS INVOLVED.

VERY THOROUGH... EVEN THE FLOOR IS LINED WITH LEAD.

NOT THAT THAT W[illegible]LL STOP ME FROM F[illegible]ND NG OUT WHAT'S GO NG ON!

IT'S SUPERMAN!

CRASH!!!

A WAREHOUSE SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT ME SEE NG INTO.

QUIT STATING THE OBVIOUS, POOPSIE, AND GET READY FOR A LITTLE ACTION!

ACTUALLY.. I FELT THAT!

GETTING WEAKER BY THE NANO-SECOND! WHY?

KRAK!

THE WHIP?!

HEAT VISION SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THAT.

BAD IDEA, FLY BOY!

CERBERUS THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DO THAT AND TOOK SOME PRECAUTIONS.. !

SSSSSSSSSSSSS

WHUMPT

YEAH! RICOCHET ALMOST HIT THE LADY, SUPERMAN!

MAYBE YOU BETTER TRY SOMETHING ELSE!

EXCELLENT SUGGESTION!

...TO DO THIS!

DISTRACT HIM, BLOCKHOUSE

HAVEN'T RECOVERED MY FULL STRENGTH.. BUT STRONG ENOUGH...

EVEN YOU CAN HANDLE HIM NOW!

OH, BOY!

POW!

A COMET!

A METEOR!

RUN!

WHOA!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? IS THE WHIP'S EFFECT PERMANENT...?

JUST WHAT I BEEN WAITIN' FOR!

BLOCKHOUSE! CAN I STILL TAKE HIM?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

WAKK!

HE'S FAIRLY INVULNERABLE ESPECIALLY TO SUCH A LOW-LEVEL PUNCH!

BUT WHAT ABOUT LOTS OF PUNCHES...

WAK

THROWN AT SUPER-SPEED?

WAK

HE'S FALLING BACK... STARTING TO CRUMBLE...

PAK

THINK AGAIN, SMART BOY!

NO! NOT THE 7-FOOT BLUE SPRUCE!

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

SOK!

I WAS!

BWAK

WHAT'S GOIN' ON? JOLT SAID YOU'D BE OUT OF IT!

BUT I GOT BETTER!

POWER DRAIN SEEMS TO HAVE WORN OFF.. THANK HEAVEN!

MERRY CHRISTMAS...

AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU, TOO!

TWO DOWN .. BUT SOMEHOW, NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE THEY RE DANGEROUS--

--WORSE THAN THE OTHER CERBERUS CYBORGS. BUT STILL ..

CERBERUS CAN T HAVE THOUGHT THEY D DEFEAT HE CAN HE--?

MISS LANE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

DARLING..

MISS LANE?!

SHE S TOTALLY OUT OF T. SHE DOESN T REALIZE WE MAY HAVE WITNESSES.. THAT THERE MIGHT BE CAMERAS!

KLIK!

WHAT--?

SHACKLE... CONVERTED TO A COLLAR... LIKE THE ONE SHE'S WEARING...

I DON'T NOTICE IT BEFORE

... WORSE THAN THE WHIP.

THERE RIPPED - JUST A LITTLE ROUGH

NOT ENOUGH FALLING UNDER

... SAME SPE... AS LOIS

HOLE I PUNCHED 4 FLOOR EARLIER

... INTO... OCEAN

... MY... ONLY HOPE.

TOZ TOZZZ TTAZT

TOZT TOTZZ

DAZT SNAPT!

SALT WATER ENTERED THE COLLAR THROUGH THE R P.. SHORTED IT OUT...

.. GUESSED R GHT...

...GOT REAL LUCKY!

NOW TO SHARE A LITTLE OF THAT LUCK...

LOIS?!

CLARK!

SUPERMAN... WHAT HAPPENED...? I REMEMBER- THE COLLAR!

JOLT AND BLOCKHOUSE ARE OVER THERE...!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO DO OTHERWISE, GIRL...

...PLAY TO THE CAMERAS... AND KEEP IT COOL!

THANK YOU, SUPERMAN...

"... FOR SAVING ME ONCE AGAIN!"

YOU'LL SEE, SUPERMAN. HE RESPONDS TO A PARTICULAR COMMANDING TONE OF VOICE

AND I HAD PLENTY OF CHANCE TO HEAR JOLT USING IT

NOW YOU LITTLE WORM TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!

I SAID-- NOW!

Y-YES MA'AM

JOLT SAID THEY DON'T ALL WANT TO DO THIS.

WHO? WHY?

I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU:

IT'S CERBERUS! HE'S GOT DIFFERENT--

DIFFERENT WHAT--? BLOCKHOUSE --ANSWER ME.

IT'S NO USE, LOIS I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE.

CERBERUS HAS SWITCHED HIM OFF!

HE WAS OBEDIENT, IF NOTHING ELSE. MAYBE TOO OBEDIENT ESPECIALLY TO JUST THAT TONE OF FEMALE VOICE

MIRRORING HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS MOTHER, NO DOUBT

WELL IT WAS WORTH A TRY I HAVE SUPERMAN'S MEASURE NOW

HE'S VULNERABLE THROUGH MAGIC AND THROUGH HIS FRIENDS. NEXT TIME I'LL SUCCEED BUT FOR NOW--

"--HE HAS WON."

AND SEND THE UNBROKEN WREATHS AND TREES TO THE COATES CHILDREN'S SHELTER.

THE ONE IN FRONT OF LINCOLN PARK...? YEAH I KNOW THE PLACE!

NO... NO MISS LANE! YOU SAVED ME HERE! YOU DONE ENOUGH ALREADY!

DECORATIONS FOR THE TREES ARE ON ME!

X-MAS TREES

METRO POLICE

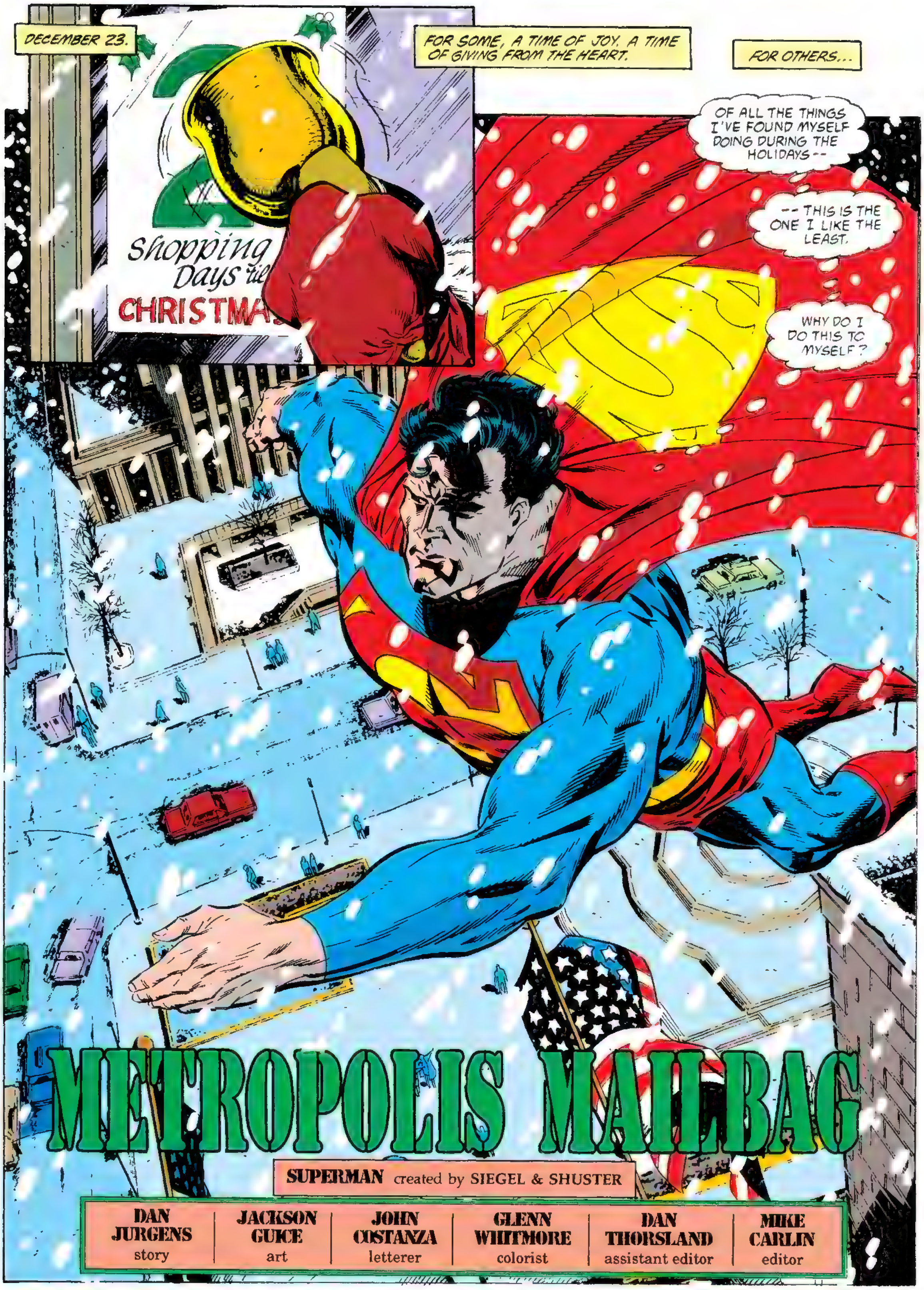
METROPOLIS POLICE

IT WAS GOOD OF THE POLICE TO OFFER TO DELIVER THE TREES AND WREATHS!

YEAH! LOOKS LIKE EVERYBODY PROFITED FROM THIS!

EXCEPT JOLT AND BLOCKHOUSE!

AND ME. I'VE GOT TO RE-ADDRESS TWO HUNDRED MORE CHRISTMAS CARDS!


DECEMBER 23.
Shopping Days 'til
CHRISTMAS
FOR SOME, A TIME OF JOY. A TIME OF GIVING FROM THE HEART.
FOR OTHERS...
OF ALL THE THINGS I'VE FOUND MYSELF DOING DURING THE HOLIDAYS --
-- THIS IS THE ONE I LIKE THE LEAST.
WHY DO I DO THIS TO MYSELF?
METROPOLIS MAILBAG
SUPERMAN created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER
DAN JURGENS story
JACKSON GUICE art
JOHN COSTANZA letterer
GLENN WHITMORE colorist
DAN THORSLAND assistant editor
MIKE CARLIN editor

THE ERADICATOR, INTERGANG, MR. MXYZPTLK--

--NONE OF THEM GET TO ME THE WAY THIS DOES.

GUESS IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS WHY THAT IS...

I AT LEAST HAVE A CHANCE OF COMING OUT ON TOP WITH THOSE GUYS..

THIS IS A LOSING PROPOSITION FROM THE WORD "GO."

METROPOLIS POST OFFICE MAIN BRANCH

HEADS UP, MR. SIMPKINS, OUR ILLUSTRIOUS GUEST HAS ARRIVED!

GLORY BE! I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR HIM!

GUESS I EXPECTED THERE'D BE A GREAT "WOOOSHING" SOUND OR SOMETHING.

GOOD TO SEE YOU, SUPERMAN! HARD TO BELIEVE A YEAR HAS GONE BY ALREADY, ISN'T IT?

THIRTY FOURTH ST

WALK

HARDLY, TRUTH TO TELL, THERE'S ABOUT *TWICE* THE AMOUNT YOU'VE EVER HAD BEFORE.

TIMES IS TOUGH Y'KNOW. THAT'S WHAT DOES IT.

THIS HERE'S LOIS LANE FROM THE DAILY PLANET.

SHE WANTS TO MAKE A STORY OUT OF THIS IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU!

OF COURSE, NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN MS. LANE.

MET POST OFFICE MAIN BRANCH

IT IS AT THAT, WILLIE. TELL ME, DID I GET A BREAK THIS YEAR?

APPARENTLY SO. I SEE WE HAVE COMPANY THIS TIME.

ALWAYS A PLEASURE, SUPERMAN!

COMING, SUPERMAN? YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A BOY BEING SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE!

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, LOIS... THIS *ALWAYS* ENDS UP--

AS YOU CAN SEE, SUPERMAN, WE HAD TO GET A BIGGER ROOM.

THE OLD ONE WAS FULL UP BY OCTOBER!

ONE OF THESE YEARS YOU'RE GONNA *HAFTA* GIVE US YOUR ADDRESS, *HEH HEH!*

MAIL

BUT HERE YOU GO, A WHOLE YEAR'S MAIL FOR A MISTER MAN O'STEEL!

INCREDIBLE! I HAD NO IDEA! WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

EVERYWHERE. FROM EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY IN THE WORLD.

LETTERS FROM MEN, WOMEN, KIDS...

LETTERS IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, RUSSIAN, SWAHILI...

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THEM.

AND THEY'RE ALL FOR YOU, SUPERMAN. I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR FUN.

OH WOW. YOU SHOULD'VE STARTED THIS WEEKS AGO!

AND PROLONG THE TORTURE? NOT A CHANCE.

MAIL FOR SUPES

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

PULL UP A CHAIR AND GRAB SOME MAIL, LOIS. IT'LL BE A WHILE.

I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HATE THIS SO MUCH.

SEE... HERE'S A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF WHY.

"DEAR SUPERMAN, I'M WRITING TO YOU FROM ALASKA WITH A TERRIFIC BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

"IF YOU WOULD ASSIST ME IN MY SEARCH FOR UNDISCOVERED OIL, OUR SUCCESS WOULD MAKE US BOTH VERY WEALTHY MEN!"

AMAZING! YOU SAID THESE WERE ALL LETTERS FROM THE NEEDY!

NO, I SAID THE LETTERS ALL WANTED MY *HELP*.

OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS I'VE SEEN A LOT OF WILD SCHEMES TO HELP PEOPLE GET RICH.

DON'T THEY REALIZE THAT YOU'D NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT SUPERMAN IS ALL ABOUT?

MAKES YOU WONDER, DOESN'T IT? "DEAR SUPERMAN--

"--I'M A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AND I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING IN GEOLOGY CLASS THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO ATTEMPT.

"TRY SQUEEZING A CHUNK OF COAL IN YOUR HANDS WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH--

"--AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE YOU SHOULD HAVE A **DIAMOND!**

"IF YOU DO THIS PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND ME SOME."

try squeezing a chunk of c
in your hands with all
strength and when you're
you should have a diam

please be su
me!

best wi

Kedd Riddle
J.F.K High S
Morganto

NOW, HOLD ON FOR A SECOND! YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY--

YOU'RE RIGHT, I CAN'T.

THAT'S OKAY. I'M QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE ONE I HAVE.

OBOY. THIS ONE IS REALLY TOUGH.

"DEAR SUPERMAN...

"... I DO HATE TO TROUBLE YOU WITH MY WORRIES--

"--BUT I AM A SIXTY-FIVE-YEAR OLD SURVIVOR OF AUSCHWITZ. FOR YEARS I THOUGHT MY ENTIRE FAMILY HAD PERISHED THERE.

"BECAUSE OF THAT I HAD NO REASON TO LOOK FOR ANYONE AND WANTED ONLY TO PUT THE TERRORS OF GERMANY BEHIND ME.

"BUT I RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT I HAD A SISTER WHO ALSO SURVIVED AND NOW LIVES IN WHAT USED TO BE EAST GERMANY.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALMOST FORTY YEARS I NOW KNOW I'M NOT THE LAST OF MY FAMILY.

"ALL I WANT IS TO SEE HER AGAIN...

"... BUT I HAVEN'T THE MEANS."

I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.

"YOU SEE, I AM WIDOWED, LIVING ON A FIXED INCOME IN CHICAGO.

"NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T ASK FOR HELP, BUT MY SISTER NOW RESIDES IN A NURSING HOME--

"--AND I FEAR SHE IS NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD.

"SINCERELY YOURS...

"... MRS. AGNES SCHOMMER"

LOOKS LIKE THAT BAD WEATHER COULD CLOBBER US OVER THE HOLIDAYS, PHIL!

INDEED IT COULD, KAITY! IF ANY OF YOU HAVE TRAVEL PLANS I'D ADVISE YOU TO HEAD OUT BEFORE THE STORM MOVES IN--

--OR YOU MIGHT MISS SEEING YOUR FAMILY TEAR INTO THOSE GIFTS.

FAMILY.

YOU ARE MY ONLY FAMILY NOW, TIGER.

PROBABLY THE ONLY FAMILY I'LL EVER --

BINGGG BONGG

FEH. MORE CHARITIES COLLECTING?

DON'T THEY REALIZE HOW LITTLE MONEY I HAVE?

SHOULDN'T EVEN ANSWER THE DOOR. IF --

--IF...

HELLO, MRS. SCHOMMER. I'M SUPERMAN.

YOU--YOU-- MY LETTER ACTUALLY *FOUND* YOU?

PACK YOUR THINGS AND GET YOUR PASSPORT, MRS. SCHOMMER. WE'RE GOING TO GERMANY!

OH, MY. OH *MY!*

I--I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE A MAN AS IMPORTANT AS YOU HAS THE TIME TO HELP *ME!*

THERE MUST BE SO MANY MORE URGENT MATTERS THAT REQUIRE YOUR ATTENTION!

RIGHT NOW, MRS. SCHOMMER, YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ON MY MIND.

I'VE CLEARED EVERYTHING WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

THEY'LL BE GLAD TO PUT YOU UP WHILE YOU'RE IN GERMANY.

HOW WILL I EVER REPAY SUCH KINDNESS?

ENJOY YOUR REUNION, MRS. SCHOMMER. THAT'S ALL I ASK.

AGNES? IS THAT REALLY *YOU?*

IT *IS!* I'D RECOGNIZE MY LITTLE SISTER'S PRETTY FACE ANYWHERE-- ANYTIME!

OH, *ELLIE!* *ELLIE!*

FAMILY.

YOU STILL HAVE FAMILY, LITTLE SISTER.

THIS IS WHY I DO THIS TO MYSELF.

EVERY NOW AND THEN, IT *IS* GOOD TO BE A SUPERMAN.

MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK. SOON IT WILL BE MORNING BACK IN METROPOLIS--

"--AND I HAVE A ROOM FULL OF MAIL TO FINISH READING."

METROPOL POST OFF

GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, LOIS?

TRIED TO. BUT WHILE YOU WERE GONE I KEPT READING THE MAIL--

--AND ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WERE THEIR PROBLEMS... THERE'RE SO *MANY* OF THEM.

FOR THE MOST PART IT'S JUST ONE TRAGEDY AFTER ANOTHER!

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY THIS TEARS ME UP SO MUCH!

THAT AND THE FACT THAT I CAN'T DO *ANYTHING* FOR MOST OF THEM.

WELL, I SEPARATED THEM INTO PILES THAT WE CAN DELIVER TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AND CHARITABLE ORGANI-ZATIONS.

GOOD IDEA. THEY'RE FAR BETTER EQUIPPED THAN I AM.

LOOK AT THIS. HERE'S A LETTER FROM A WOMAN WHO NEEDS A HEART TRANSPLANT AND CAN'T FIND A DONOR.

AND HERE'S ANOTHER ONE FROM A MAN WHO CAN'T EVEN KEEP HIS FAMILY FED!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD STOP DOING THIS...YOU CAN'T FEEL *OBLIGATED* TO EVERYO--

NO...I'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE TO THE SCHOMMERS ALREADY TODAY. MAYBE THERE'S--AH, HERE WE GO, LOOK AT THIS ONE.

THIS IS A NICE CHANGE OF PACE.

KIDS LIKE DRAWING THESE COLORFUL COSTUMES, I GUESS.

"DEAR SUPERMAN...

"I DON'T THINK THIS LETTER WILL EVER REACH YOU. BUT MY MOM TOLD ME TO TRY ANYWAY."

OH...NO...

WHAT?

"MY DAD HAS A BRAIN TUMOR. THE DOCTORS SAY THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO SAVE HIM.

"BUT YOU CAN, RIGHT?

"I HEARD THAT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.

"EVEN DO A BRAIN OPERATION...

... TO GET OUT A TUMOR.

"AND SINCE YOU'RE SO AWESOME I KNOW YOU WILL COME AND SAVE MY DAD'S LIFE.

"LOVE, TERRY BALDWIN JR. AGE 10. P.S. I HOPE YOU LIKE MY DRAWING."

WHERE'S HE FROM?

SALT LAKE CITY.

YOU'RE GOING ON THIS ONE, AREN'T YOU?

BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU GET THERE? WHAT WILL YOU SAY?

ALL I CAN SAY...

"I'LL TELL THE BOY THAT I CAN'T SAVE HIS FATHER'S LIFE."

STRANGE, I'VE GONE TOE TO TOE WITH GUYS LIKE DARKSEID AND THE PARASITE--

--YET I'M NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING THIS YOUNG BOY.

MEMORIA

THE ABILITY TO FLY, HEAT VISION... NONE OF THAT MAKES IT ANY EASIER TO TELL THE BOY I CAN'T SAVE HIS FATHER.

I HOPE HE UNDERSTANDS.

I HOPE HE WON'T HATE ME.

OKAY... THIS IS THE HOSPITAL ALL RIGHT. NOW LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIND--

--MR. TERRY BALDWIN'S ROOM PLEASE?

ORMATION DESK

OH.

OH, GRACIOUS.

I--I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I--

I DO, NURSE.

I'M MRS. BALDWIN, SUPERMAN. MY... HUSBAND... PASSED AWAY ABOUT TEN MINUTES AGO.

CHAPEL
RECOVERY
MEDI-LAB

200 - 2

OH, I'M... SORRY. PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONDOLENCES.

WHAT DO I SAY NOW? WHAT DO I DO?

I... DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE.

IT'S JUST THAT I GOT THIS... AHH... LETTER FROM A BOY...

I ASSUME HE'S YOUR SON, AND... HE, AHH...

PLEASE. IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I REALIZE YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP. I'M ACTUALLY VERY TOUCHED THAT YOU'VE COME TO US, BUT...

I'M A STRANGER, I UNDERSTAND. MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST IF I LEFT.

YEAH! WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND LEAVE US *ALONE!*

TERRY! MIND YOUR MANNERS AROUND--

THANKS FOR *NOTHING*, SUPERMAN! YOU'RE *TOO LATE!*

SHOULDA KNOWN YOU WOULDN'T HELP! SHOULDA KNOWN YOU'RE A BIG *FAKE!*

I'M SORRY, I'LL GO NOW.

NO. WOULD YOU TALK TO HIM, PLEASE?

MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND?

YOU LET MY DAD *DIE!*

I... OKAY.

BEAT IT.

IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO LEAVE I WILL.

I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I ENJOYED THE DRAWING YOU SENT.

BIG DEAL.

LOOK, TERRY, I KNOW YOU'RE MAD AT ME. BUT I JUST FOUND YOUR LETTER TODAY!

AND EVEN IF I HAD GOTTEN HERE SOONER I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING!

I'M NOT A *DOCTOR!*

BUT YOU'RE *SUPERMAN!*

NO. I'M *SUPERMAN.*

AND THERE ARE MANY, MANY THINGS I JUST *CANNOT* DO.

I WISH I COULD HAVE HELPED YOUR FATHER, THOUGH. I WISH IT WITH ALL MY HEART.

WE UNDERSTAND, DON'T WE, TERRY?

EVERYBODY DID ALL THEY COULD BUT GOD WANTED YOUR FATHER.

THANK YOU, SUPERMAN. THANK YOU FOR CARING ENOUGH TO COME.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...

EXCUSE ME, MRS. BALDWIN? THE CERTIFICATE OF DEATH HAS JUST BEEN SIGNED AND WE WERE WONDERING--

WHAT WERE YOUR HUSBAND'S WISHES? WAS HE A DONOR?

NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

BESIDES, ALL THAT BUSINESS SEEMS KIND OF, WELL...

...UNNATURAL, I GUESS.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT. AS NEXT OF KIN YOU COULD HAVE DONATED HIS ORGANS TO THOSE WHO WERE TRULY IN NEED.

MRS. BALDWIN, I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT I'D LIKE TO OFFER SOMETHING FOR YOU TO CONSIDER.

I RECEIVED A LETTER TODAY FROM A WOMAN WHO IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF A HEART TRANSPLANT.

CHANCES ARE YOUR HUSBAND'S HEART IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH HERS, BUT I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHERS IN THE SAME PREDICAMENT.

YOU COULD GIVE THOSE PEOPLE HOPE, MRS. BALDWIN.

YOU COULD GIVE THEM A SHOT AT *LIFE*.

KANSAS CITY.

WE HAVE O.R. 7 ALL PREPPED AND READY, DOCTOR.

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST IS ON HIS WAY IN RIGHT NOW.

THANK YOU, NURSE. PUT ON THE COFFEE, FOLKS, IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG CHRISTMAS EVE.

HOW YOU FEELING, GLORIA?

TIRED. WEAK. CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FINALLY... FOUND ME A HEART.

I'D... ALMOST GIVEN UP HOPE.

ME TOO. I GUESS YOU CAN JUST CONSIDER THIS A CHRISTMAS GIFT.

WHERE... DID IT COME FROM? HOW DID YOU FIND IT?

LET'S JUST SAY WE HAD EXTRAORDINARY HELP--

--FROM A MOST EXTRA-ORDINARY MAN.

HI.

IT WAS YOUR LETTER THAT BROUGHT ME HERE.

I HOPE THIS HELPS.

I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

DON'T THANK ME. THANK A WOMAN AND YOUNG BOY IN UTAH.

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO FOUND IT IN THEM-SELVES TO GIVE.

CAN'T BELIEVE THE LUCK. BALDWIN'S HEART IS A PERFECT MATCH FOR THIS WOMAN'S.

MRS. BALDWIN REALLY CAME THROUGH. GUESS IT PROVES--

--THAT AN ORDINARY PERSON CAN MAKE A BIGGER CONTRIBUTION THAN A SUPERMAN ANY DAY.

WHAT A DAY. I FEEL LIKE I'VE REALLY BEEN ON A ROLLER COASTER RIDE OF EMOTIONS.

YEAH, I CAN SEE WHY.

THERE'S ONE MORE LETTER YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ.

YOU REMEMBER THAT THE DAILY PLANET THROWS A PARTY EVERY CHRISTMAS EVE FOR DISADVANTAGED KIDS, RIGHT?

THIS END UP

WELL, THEY'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN A SANTA CLAUS TO HAND OUT PRESENTS. BUT WITH THE STRIKE THIS YEAR--

--THEY JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE BUDGET TO BUY ANY PRESENTS.

TO MAKE UP FOR THE LACK OF PRESENTS--

Big Belly Burgers

--THEY WANT SUPERMAN TO SHOW UP AND DIVERT THE KIDDIES' ATTENTION FROM THE LACK OF TOYS.

MORE OR LESS.

YOU KNOW, LOIS, IT MIGHT BE FUN TO SEE SOME BRIGHT, SHINING, YOUNG FACES!

YOU'RE GOING TO GO?

NOT ONLY AM I GOING TO GO--

--BUT I THINK I KNOW A WAY TO MAKE IT A VERY SPECIAL EVENING FOR THEM!

BY GOLLY, SUPERMAN, YOUR IDEA MIGHT JUST WORK!

FACT IS, IT COULD ACTUALLY BE A GOOD ROLLICKING BIT OF FUN!

LET'S GET STARTED THEN! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!

AHH... ONE QUESTION, THOUGH. NOT THAT I WANT TO RAIN ON YOUR PARADE--

--BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET THE PRESENTS FROM?

LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

WAYNE MANOR, ALFRED SPEAKING.

YES, MR. WAYNE IS IN, BUT, I'M AFRAID HE IS NOT TAKING CALLS THIS EVENING.

YES, I SHALL TELL HIM.

THE GENTLEMAN ON THE LINE CLAIMS TO BE SUPERMAN, SIR.

CALLING TO WISH ME A PLEASANT HOLIDAY, NO DOUBT.

BRUCE WAYNE HERE.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I SEE. IT WILL BE MY SINCERE PLEASURE TO ASSIST YOU.

I'LL MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH A METROPOLIS DEPARTMENT STORE AND INSTRUCT THEM TO SEND ME THE BILL.

WE'RE ALL SET, EMIL!

WE HAVE OUR *TOYS*! GOOD NIGHT NURSE, BUT YOU *DO* WORK FAST!

FLOUR

WITH THAT OUT OF THE WAY WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD WHAT WE NEED IN *NO* TIME!

MAKE SURE IT'S BIG ENOUGH! IT WILL HAVE QUITE A LOT TO CARRY!

NOT TO WORRY! OUR ONLY PROBLEM NOW WILL BE ONE OF PROPULSION!

HOW SO?

THE LEGEND STIPULATES FLYING CREATURES THAT DON'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD!

WE DON'T NEED ONE WITH A GLOWING NOSE, BUT--

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.

LET ME MAKE A QUICK TRIP TO THE ZOO TO SEE WHAT I CAN WORK OUT.

♫ Jingle bells, ♪ Jingle bells, Jingle alll the wayyy...

HEY, THERE'S LOIS LANE!

DAI

HI, GUS! MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY!

SOMEBODY BRING SOME EGGNOG TO THE LADY!

NO TIME FOR THAT! I WANT EVERYBODY ON THE ROOF -- PRONTO!

AWWW, WHAT FOR?

YOU'LL SEE!

NOW EVERYBODY BE EXTRA SPECIAL CAREFUL! STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGES!

WOW, THIS IS COOL UP HERE! HEY--

--I THINK I HEAR SUMTHIN'!

ME TOO! LOOK!

I DO! I HEAR *BELLS!* AND SOMEBODY *LAUGHIN'!*

HO HO HOOO...

HO HO HOOO...

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

IT'S SANTA CLAUS!!!

GREAT! JUST AS I HOPED--NO ONE CAN SEE ME COVERED IN BLACK LIKE THIS!

AS FAR AS THESE KIDS ARE CONCERNED, THESE REINDEER ARE FLYING SANTA IN!

HO HOH HO! GATHER 'ROUND, CHILDREN! I'VE GOT PRESENTS FOR *EVERYBODY!*

WOWWW! THANKS, SANTA!

DID THEY SEE ME?

NO. BUT GET GOING BEFORE THEY DO!

OKAY... I'LL BE BACK IN A BIT.

WITH ALL HIS POWER, HE'S STILL SO KIND... SO GENTLE...

GOD... I LOVE HIM.

I'LL PICK EMIL UP LATER! HE'S HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE!

I WONDER HOW THE HEART TRANSPLANT WENT? I'LL HAVE TO CHECK IN THE MORNING. IN THE MEANTIME--

GREAT! LOOKS LIKE MY IDEA WORKED BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED!

TONIGHT, IT'S BETTER FOR THESE KIDS TO BELIEVE IN THE MAGIC OF SANTA THAN THE ABILITIES OF SUPERMAN.

--I MIGHT AS WELL HEAD HOME AND TAKE A BREAK.

I SPENT ALL DAY ATTENDING TO SUPERMAN'S BUSINESS --

--NOW I MIGHT AS WELL ATTEND TO SOME OF MY OWN.

LAST THING I NEED TO DO IS READ MORE MAIL--

--BUT A MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT A MAN'S GOTTA DO.

HMM... WONDER WHAT THIS IS? LOOKS LIKE AN--

The honor of your presence is requested at the marriage ceremony of Lana Elizabeth Lang and Peter Joseph Ross

--INVITATION?

PETE AND LANA?

MARRIED?

BUT... BUT...

WELL, MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. KENT.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

IT'S LOVELY DEAR. I NEEDED--

DING-DONG

WHO COULD BE CALLING ON CHRISTMAS DAY?

YOU'LL NEVER FIND OUT IF YOU DON'T ANSWER THE DOOR, BARTON.

WONDER WHAT THIS ONE IS?

PACKAGE FOR SENATOR CALDWELL. YOU'LL HAVE TO SIGN FOR IT.

FREEDOM RINGS COURIER SERVICE

CERTAINLY, YOUNG MAN.

AWFUL BUSINESS--TO BE WORKING A HOLIDAY.

AWW, I DON'T MIND IT.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, SENATOR.

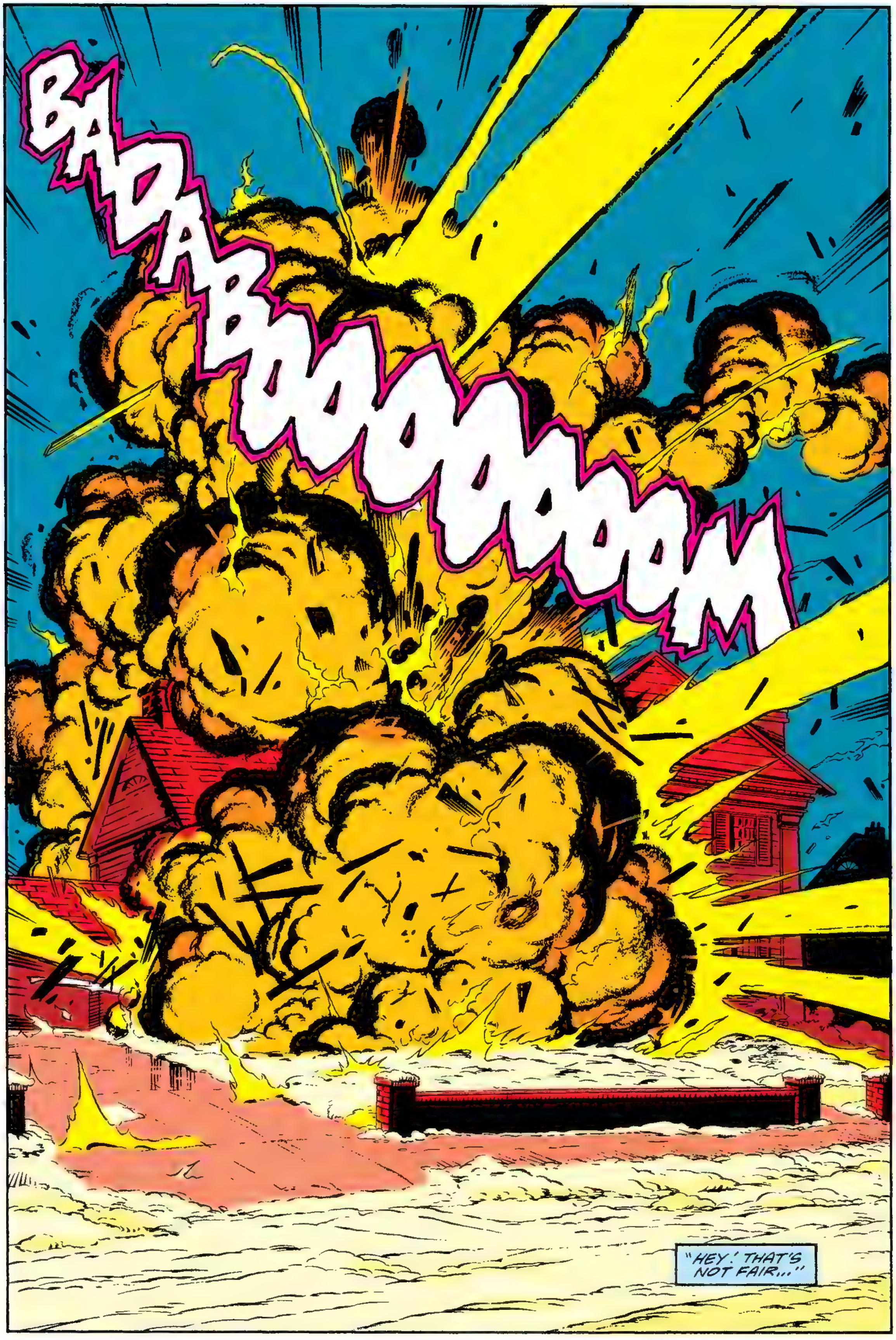
AND TO YOU, AS WELL.

WHAT WAS IT, DEAR?

DELIVERY MAN DROPPED OFF A PACKAGE.

THERE'S A CARD, BUT I'LL NEED MY EYEGLASSES TO READ IT.

Regards from the President


BADA
BOOOOOM
"HEY! THAT'S NOT FAIR..."

"... I MEAN, IF I HAVE TO WEAR THIS "BROWNIE" OUTFIT, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS WEAR THAT SANTA BEARD!

HECK, RED-- NO ONE'S GONNA RECKEY-NIZE ME AS BIBBO!

'SIDES-- I LOOK STOOPID!

YEAH, WELL, THAT MAKES TWO OF US!

YOU WANTED THIS PARTY FOR ALL THE FOLKS IN YOUR BAR WHO HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, REMEMBER?

NOW LET'S OPEN THE DOORS FOR BUSINESS!

ACE O' CLUBS

:HMMPH: DON'TCHA GOT A MUDDER TA GO HOME TO, KID?

AWW-- JUST BE SURE TA GIT A PITCHER O' DERE MUGS WHEN I OPEN THE DOOR!

PROVIDING, OF COURSE, THAT THIS ANTIQUE CAMERA WORKS!

'EY, BIB--BETTER SAND YER FRONT WALK...

WHAT KIND O' GREETING IS DAT FER SANDY CLAWS, HIGH POCKETS? IT'S CHRISTMAS, FER CRYIN' OUT--

Christmas in Suicide Slumberland

SUPERMAN Created by:
JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

"YEEEEOOOOWWW!"

BIBBO, IF THIS WERE A MOVIE, THE SOUNDTRACK SONG WOULD HAVE TO BE ELVIS'S BLACK AND BLUE CHRISTMAS!

I TOLD HIM THE WALK WAS ICY.!

BIBBO'S

ACE O' CLUBS

RIP

A BEER-GUZZLING TALE OF HOLIDAY CHEER, BY:

TOM GRUMMETT - PENCILLER • DOUG HAZLEWOOD - INKER • JERRY ORDWAY - WRITER
ALBERT DEGUZMAN - LETTERER • GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST • DAN "FROSTY" THORSLAND ASST. EDITOR
MIKE "SANTA" CARLIN - EDITOR SUPREME

HAW HAW HAW!

#%^@&$@!

AWWW, IF MY BUTT DIDN'T HURT SO BAD, I'D LET OUT A BIG HORSE-LAUGH, TOO!

UH, BIBBO-- I NEED TO MAKE A CALL...

SAY "HI" TO YER MUDDER FER ME, RED--BUT MAKE IT QUICK, 'CAUSE YOU GOT MORE PITCHERS TA TAKE!

BIBBO KNOWS I'D NEVER MENTION HIM, OR THIS BAR TO MY MOM.

IT WOULDN'T FIT IN WITH ALL THE LIES I'VE BEEN FEEDING HER THIS PAST MONTH!

SHE THINKS I'M DOING JUST GREAT, TRAVELING ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY ON PHOTO ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE DAILY PLANET.'

JUST AS WELL THAT MOM'S LINE IS BUSY-- I'D BE WAY TOO TEMPTED TO TELL HER THE TRUTH...

"...LIKE, FIRST I LOST MY JOB AT THE NEWSPAPER..."

"...NEXT I GOT BOOTED OUT OF MY APARTMENT..."

"...AND THEN I SLEPT IN MY CAR-- UNTIL IT WAS TOWED TO THE IMPOUND LOT FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS!"

BIBBO'S BEEN A LIFESAVER, LETTING ME ROOM WITH HIM UNTIL MY LUCK IMPROVES!

"I THOUGHT IT HAD. WHEN I MANAGED TO GET SHOTS OF THAT ROBOT COMING OUT OF THE BASEMENT OF THE SHELTER."

"BIBBO EVEN DONATED A MONEY ORDER TO PAY FOR PROCESSING THE FILM IN THAT STUPID DISPOSABLE CAMERA!"

PEE WEE

PACO RULES

GH WUZ HERE

ELO

NOW IT'S BEEN A MONTH AND I STILL HAVEN'T GOT MY "COMEBACK" PICTURES IN THE MAIL!

HEY, LOOKIE HERE :BLURRRP:

RED, YER A :URRRP: TEEVEE STAR!

WHAT, BARNEY?

IPHONE

HEY! THEY CAN'T RUN THIS YET--THE AGENCY NEVER PAID ME FOR IT!

DON'T BE CRUSHED BY FALSE CLAIMS FROM TIRED OLD DINOSAURS SAYING THEY DELIVER HOT, FAST AND FRESH!

WITH THEM, BY THE TIME YOU GET YOUR PIZZA, IT'S ALREADY COLD!

WELL, NOW THERE'S A NEW KID ON THE SCENE WHO'S OUT TO CRUSH THE COMPETITION--

--AND HIS NAME IS TITANO!

IF IT'S NOT THERE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, IT'S FREE!

CARLABUNKA!

HOW CAN YOU BEAT SUCH A TITANIC OFFER?

GIANT-- TURTLE--

TITANO'S Pizza

--OLSEN?!

...NOW BACK TO OUR HOLIDAY PRESENTATION OF "THE BELLS OF SAINT-- ✲ CLICK

GOOD HEAVENS-- THAT WAS JIMMY!

IT SEEMS HE FOUND A JOB, CLARK.

I SENT A CARD FOR HIM TO HIS MOTHER'S ADDRESS. WE'D BOTH FEEL BETTER KNOWING HE'S WITH HER TODAY, OF ALL DAYS.

YOU'RE RIGHT, LOIS...

"...IT'S TIME WE CALLED SARA OLSEN CONCERNING JIMMY."

"I'M SO HAPPY WE'RE TOGETHER, LANA..."

...I THANK GOD EVERY DAY YOUR APARTMENT ROOF COLLAPSED.*

THAT'S A PRETTY LAME TOAST, PETER ROSS...

...BUT I LIKED THE "TOGETHER" PART!

CLINK

*IT HAPPENED IN MAN OF STEEL #7

HOW'S THIS-- TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WIFE-TO-BE, IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

NOW YOU'VE GOT IT.

RIIING

DANG IT!

MERRY CHRISTMAS. THIS IS PETE ROSS.

HOLD PLEASE FOR THE GOVERNOR OF KANSAS.

GOVERNOR? TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE--?

I ASSUME YOU HEARD THE NEWS OF SENATOR CALDWELL'S DEATH?

GOVERNOR?

NO, SIR, I DID NOT.

YES, I UNDERSTAND-- IT IS A BIG RESPONSIBILITY, SIR. THANK YOU.

PETE, WHAT IS IT?

SIT DOWN, HONEY--SENATOR CALDWELL HAS BEEN KILLED... AND THAT'S NOT ALL.

THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTED ME TO SERVE OUT HIS TERM IN CONGRESS!

SATELLITE, DO YOU READ ME? THE D.C. SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT IS COMBING THROUGH THE DEBRIS OF SENATOR CALDWELL'S HOME.

BEFORE THEY SHOWED, I WAS ABLE TO GATHER MY INTELLIGENCE WITHOUT DISTURBING THE CRIME SCENE, SO...

...WHAT SAY WE HIGH-TAIL IT OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE STEP ON ANY TOES?

LOOKS LIKE G-MEN ARE DOWN THERE NOW AS WELL.

WE DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO STEP ON THEIR TOES, AGENT!

FER THE LOVE O'MIKE--WHAT'VE WE GOT UP *THERE*--A 'COPTER THAT MAKES *NO* SOUND, AND A FLYIN'MAN?

MAY BE CONNECTED TO THIS CASE--

NO--NO SHOOTING. WE'LL TRACK THEM ON RADAR.

LET'S *NOT* GIVE THE NETWORKS ANY *MORE* TO REPORT ON...

...S.C.U.'S CAPTAIN LEWIS CONFIRMED THE USE OF A HIGH-TECH-EXPLOSIVE DEVICE IN THE BLAST THAT KILLED THE SENATOR AND HIS WIFE.

AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT INDICATED WHETHER ANY *SUSPECTS* EXIST, BUT WE'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED AS DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR.

REPORTING LIVE FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS IS FRAN FARMER, GBS NEWS.

PROB'LY ONE OF THOSE QURAC TERRORISTS THAT DONE IT!

NO SPITTING

THAT REALLY SUCKED ALL THE HOLIDAY CHEER OUT OF ME!

YEAH, WELL, IT'S HARD FER ME TA FEEL SORRY FER SOME POLLY-TICIAN! LOTSA GOOD JOES DIE EV'RY DAY ONNA STREETS!

THIS WAS ASSASSINATION, BIBBO!

AWWW, WE GOT US A PARTY TA RUN, RED.

WHAT'D YA GET FROM SANDY-CLAWS, HIGH-POCKETS?

WELL, LOOKEE HERE-- T-ANKS, BIB!

Koula Koula

AWRIGHT! A WHOLE JAR OF BEEF JERKY!

DIDN'T GITCHA NUTTIN, BIB-- I FERGOT IT WUS X-MAS!

HEY, CHECK THIS OUT...

LAST NIGHT, THE DAILY PLANET'S ANNUAL "TOYS FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTHS" PROGRAM PUT SMILES ON AN AWFUL LOT OF FACES.*

*SEE SUPERMAN #64, STILL ON SALE!

A PLANET SPOKEPERSON SAID THE PROJECT WAS IN DANGER OF CANCELLATION DUE DUE TO THEIR RECENT STRIKE...

...UNTIL A MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTOR EMERGED TO SUPPLY CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN THERE.

PHONE

AWWW, DAT'S NICE!

KIDS! YOU RAISE 'EM AND THEN THEY GET THEMSELVES MARRIED, AND YOU NEVER HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN!

AIN'TCHA GOT A MOMMA OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, WORRYING OVER YOU, SONNY?

MY MOM KNOWS I LOVE HER, MIDGE--I JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR HER LECTURE ME ON HOW I SCREWED UP MY LIFE!

'SIDES, I COULDN'T BUY HER A GIFT, WITHOUT THE MONEY THAT AGENCY STILL OWES ME FOR MY COMMERCIAL!

SAAYY, RED--YER MAW'S NAME IS OLSEN, TOO, AIN'T IT?

SURE, YOU BIG DOPE--WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

DON'T GIT YER SHORTS TWISTED, KID--I'M JUST ASKIN'.

HEY, BIB! DON'T THAT CHILDREN'S AID PLACE GOT A LOT OF NEEDY KIDS?

WHY DON'T YOU AND RED PAY 'EM A VISIT AS SANTA AND HIS ELF?

PFSSSST!

WE KNOW WHERE WE COULD GET A BUNCH OF TOYS AND STUFF FER YOU TA GIVE AWAY!

HEY, DAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDE-ER!

WAITAMINIT-- DON'T FOOL WIT'ME, LAMARR! WE'RE GONNA BUY DESE TOYS, AIN'T WE?

DIS IS ON DA UP AND UP?

ABSITIVELY, BIB--OR SHOULD I SAY, SANTY? THE PLACE'LL BILL YOU!

LET US USE YER COASTER WAGON AN' WE'LL BE IN BIZNESS!

BIB--NO STORES ARE OPEN TODAY! YOU WANT ME TO TAIL THEM AND KEEP THEM OUT OF TROUBLE?

ACE O' CLUBS

HECK NO-- YOU JUST WATCH TH' BAR, AN' I'LL GO.

LAMARR AND HIGH-POCKETS MEAN WELL, BUT DEY AIN'T VOISED...

"... IN DA FOYNER POINTS O'DA LAW!"

BACK TO THE ROOST, SANCHEZ.

NOT MANY BARNS IN VIRGINIA EQUIPPED WITH A HELI-PAD, AGENT. I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CHOOSY.

AH, MY *WELCOMING* COMMITTEE. MERRY CHRISTMAS, GENTLEMEN!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR US CONCERNING THE SENATOR'S DEATH, AGENT LIBERTY?

MY, AREN'T WE FORMAL, JUDGE KRAMER!

WELL, ANYWAY, HERE IT IS--I HOVERED OVER THE SCENE, LOOKING FOR FRAGMENTS OF THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE.

I SPOTTED A PIECE OF THE DETONATOR *RELAY*-- FRENCH-MADE, SIMILAR TO WHAT'S BEEN USED BY THE QURACIS.

ALSO, THERE WAS A PORTION OF A CARD, STILL READABLE--"GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT."

THE CARD WAS TREATED WITH *SOMETHING* SO IT WOULDN'T BE DESTROYED IN THE BLAST.

IT POINTS TO QURAC, AND THEIR PRESIDENT MARLO, BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT THEY'D GAIN FROM IT WITH MARLO STILL IN OUR CUSTODY.

IT'S *TERRORISM*-- RETRIBUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES' PART IN HOLDING MARLO FOR A WORLD COURT.

SENATOR CALDWELL WAS ON THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND *WAS* AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF MARLO.

THEY KILLED A *TRUE AMERICAN PATRIOT*, AGENT!

THAT WILL BE ALL, AGENT LIBERTY.

KRAMER-- HARRIMAN, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

"...I'M GOING TO TRY TO ENJOY THE REST OF THIS DAY!"

JIMMY'S MOTHER SEEMED CONFUSED AS TO WHY CLARK WOULDN'T KNOW THAT JIMMY WAS IN CHICAGO TODAY...

...ON AN ASSIGNMENT FOR THE DAILY PLANET.

HE NEVER TOLD HER HE LOST HIS JOB AT THE PAPER, EVIDENTLY, NOR THAT HE'D FALLEN ON HARD TIMES.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DIDN'T TRY TO REACH OUT TO ME OR LOIS FOR HELP-- WHAT WAS HE THINKING?

HIS APARTMENT'S EMPTY TOO!

THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH-- I'VE BEEN TOO WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN PROBLEMS...

...I'M GOING TO FIND HIM IF I HAVE TO TEAR SUICIDE SLUM APART BRICK BY BRICK!

NO SIGN OF JIMMY... YET.

WELL, I GUESS CRIME TAKES NO HOLIDAYS.

HAVING TROUBLE, GENTS?

NAW, T'ANKS-- WE ALMOS' GOT IT!

?

I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE TROUBLE YOU'RE IN.

I MEAN, BREAKING INTO A TOY WAREHOUSE ON CHRISTMAS DAY--

AWWGEEZ-- SOOPERMAN!

LE TOYSTORE SHIPPING AND RECEIVING

MAN, MY HANDS ARE FREEZIN'!

WE NEEDED TOYS FER SANTY CLAWS TA GIVE THE ORPHANS-- WE WUZ EVEN GONNA PAY FER 'EM!

RING

I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL IT TO THE POLICE-- THERE'S A FAIR BIT OF DAMAGE DONE TO THAT DOOR...

HOLDYERHORSIES...

BIBBO? WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH YOU?

HAVE YOU TAKEN IN ORPHANS, NOW?

DESE CLOWNS IS TELLIN' DA TRUT' -- ONLY DEY WUZN'T 'SPOSED TO STEAL NO TOYS!

WE GOT DA IDEER TO PLAY SANDY CLAWS FER DA KIDDIES AT DAT ORPHANAGE-- DESE BUMS DON'T MEAN NO HARM...

CAN'T YA SEE YER WAY TA LETTIN' 'EM GO? I'LL PAY FER DAT DOOR!

THEY MAY HAVE LEFT THEIR BRAINS AT HOME, BUT THEIR HEARTS ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE--

LOIS LANE SENT THE COATES BRANCH OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY SOME WREATHES AND DECORATIONS...*

*IN MAN OF STEEL #8, STILL ON SALE!

...BUT I'LL BET THEY COULD USE SOMEONE TO PLAY SANTA.

DEN YOU'LL LET MY PALS GO?

BETTER THAN THAT-- I MAY BE ABLE TO SOLVE YOUR TOY SHORTAGE WITH A PHONE CALL!

PHONE

HI, IT'S ME. CAN YOU GET THE LEFTOVER DONATED TOYS ONTO THE PLANET'S ROOFTOP IN THE NEXT HALF HOUR? GREAT. 'BYE.

HERE, HIGH-POCKETS-- I BRUNG SOME HOOCH TA WARM YOUSE GUYS UP ÷ HIC÷!

YER RIGHT 'BOUT SOOPERMAN, BIB...

YEP, HE'S STILL MY FAV'RIT!

WE'LL GET "RED" AN' MEETCHA AT THE ORPHANAGE!

YOU KNOW, BIBBO, FROM WHAT EMIL HAMILTON SAYS--YOU'VE BECOME QUITE A *CREDIT* TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

HE SAYS YOU'VE BEEN VERY GENEROUS TO A LOT OF FOLKS WITH YOUR LOTTO WINNINGS!

HEY, DAT PROFESSOR CAN SURE PLAY DA *PEE-ANN-NO*!

REALLY? THAT'S A SIDE OF EMIL I'VE NEVER SEEN.

YOU SHOULD STOP BY THE ACE O' CLUBS SOMETIMES...

...DRINKS'RE ON ME!

MISS LANE-- YOU DIDN'T NEED TO DO THIS YOURSELF...

I DIDN'T. I JUST GOT HERE!

WOW. YER *DEE* LOIS *LANES* :HIC:!

:WHEW:! YOU'VE BEEN INTO THE HOLIDAY *CHEER*, HAVEN'T YOU, UH, MR. BIPPO?

THAT'S *BIBBO*, MISS LANE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? THESE *GIFTS* WILL MAKE THOSE KIDS *HAPPY*, WON'T THEY?

SURE, AN I'M MISSUS SAINT NICK!

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY. CODATES CHILDREN EST. 1896

NO, REALLY--WE'RE HERE TO PLAY SANTA FOR YOUR CHILDREN!

IT'SA BOID-- IT'SA PLANE...

...IT'S BIBBO...

...AND SOOPERMAN, O'COURSE!

...I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST A BUNCH OF DRUNKS!

THEY MEAN WELL, MYRA.

ALMOS' LOS' M' HAT!

WHERE'D YOU FIND SUPERMAN?

I CAN GUESS WHY!

YOU DON'T HAVETA WHISPER, RED--WANNA LIFESAVER? LOIS LANES GAVE 'EM TO ME!

JIM, I'D LIKE TO TALK LATER--TO CATCH UP ON THINGS...

:ULP: SURE. YOU'RE NOT MAD AT ME, ARE YOU?

WELL, THIS LENDS SOME CREDIBILITY TO YOUR STORY...

'EYYYY :HIC: LOOOKING GOOD, BIBBO!

"NOT AT ALL, JIM--IT'S JUST THAT ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU--INCLUDING ME."

KIDS--I HAVE A WONDERFUL SURPRISE FOR YOU...

HOHOOO :HAAUCK: HO!

LOOK WHO SUPERMAN BROUGHT!

LOOKIE ME--I'M YER OLD PAL SANDY CLAWS--AND HERE ARE MY *ELFS*--RED, LAMARR, AN' HIGH-POCKETS!

WHEN I CALL OUT YOUR *NAME*, GO ON UP TO SANTA FOR A PRESENT.

I'LL HAND YOU AN APPROPRIATE GIFT, BIB--I *CAN* SEE THROUGH THE WRAPPING, YOU KNOW!

I DON'T WANNA SIT IN HIS *LAP*.

I WOULDN'T *ASK* YOU TO, HONEY.

TOMMY?

I WANT A *FIRE TRUCK*, SANTA--BUT YOUR *BREATH* SMELLS REALLY *BAD*!

WHY, YOU LITTLE ORN'RY...

SANTA!

HERE. OH, AND TRY *ANOTHER* BREATH MINT, BIBBO.

:HUMPH:

HEATHER HERE IS AFRAID TO SIT IN SANTA'S LAP.

AWWW, BIB-- I MEAN, *SANDY* CLAWS AIN'T GONNA *BITE* YA.

WHATTAYA WANT FER CHRIS'MAS, SWEETIE?

I WANT A NEW BABY *DOLL*.

WHUZZAT? SANDY'S GOT *BOXED EARS*, AN' HE DON'T *HEAR* SO GOOD!

GOT IT RIGHT HERE, SANTA.

OH, *THANK YOU, SANTA!*

KEITH'S STUPID *CAT* ISN'T GOING TO GET AT *THIS* DOLLY!

WATCH THE WINDPIPE! I PROMISE TO TAKE YOUR PICTURE *NEXT!*

YOU HEARD SANTA'S HELPER, KEITH--LET THE ELF BREATHE!

C'MERE, SHORTY-- I'LL SHOW YA HOW TA *BREAK* A *HEADLOCK*.

SANTA *USED TO BE* A *WRESTLER*, AMONG OTHER THINGS, KEITH!

CAN I *HELP YOU*, MISS?

?

JIMMY-- I SAW WHAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WERE DOING...

"... HELPING THESE CHILDREN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.

H-HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

AINTCHA GONNA SAY HI TO YER MUDDER, RED?

YOU TOLD HER??

SANTA, OR SHOULD I SAY, BIBBO, DID-- I RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE FROM OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION EARLIER.

DON'T BE MAD AT YOUR FRIENDS, SON-- THEY KNEW YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO SEE YOU "DOWN ON YOUR LUCK..."

"... BUT FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, I'D SAY YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE.

IT'S SILLY FOR US TO BE APART NOW, ISN'T IT?

G'WAN KID-- HUG HER B'FORE I START BAWLIN', LIKE A BABY!

OHH, MAAA-- I MISSED YOU SO BAD!

Y'KNOW-- THERE'S A LOTTA LOVE IN DIS ROOM...

AMEN TO THAT.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL...

"...THIS IS THE BEST CHRISTMAS WE'VE HAD HERE IN A LONG TIME!"

THESE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE REALLY REMINDED US THAT THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IS IN THE *GIVING*, NOT THE *RECEIVING*.

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE *JOY* ON THE FACES OF THOSE KIDS, LOIS.

THIS BIBBO CHARACTER SURPRISED ME.

I GUESS YOU CAN'T JUDGE A FELLOW BY THE WAY HE *LOOKS*. HE NOT ONLY PLAYED SANTA, BUT *REUNITED* THE OLSENS, TO BOOT.

I'M SO *HAPPY* THAT JIMMY AND HIS MOM ARE TOGETHER AGAIN.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, M'LADY!

OH, CLARK IT'S *BEAUTIFUL*.

WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S A *PULLOVER SWEATER*, MR. X-RAY VISION!

WHA-AT?

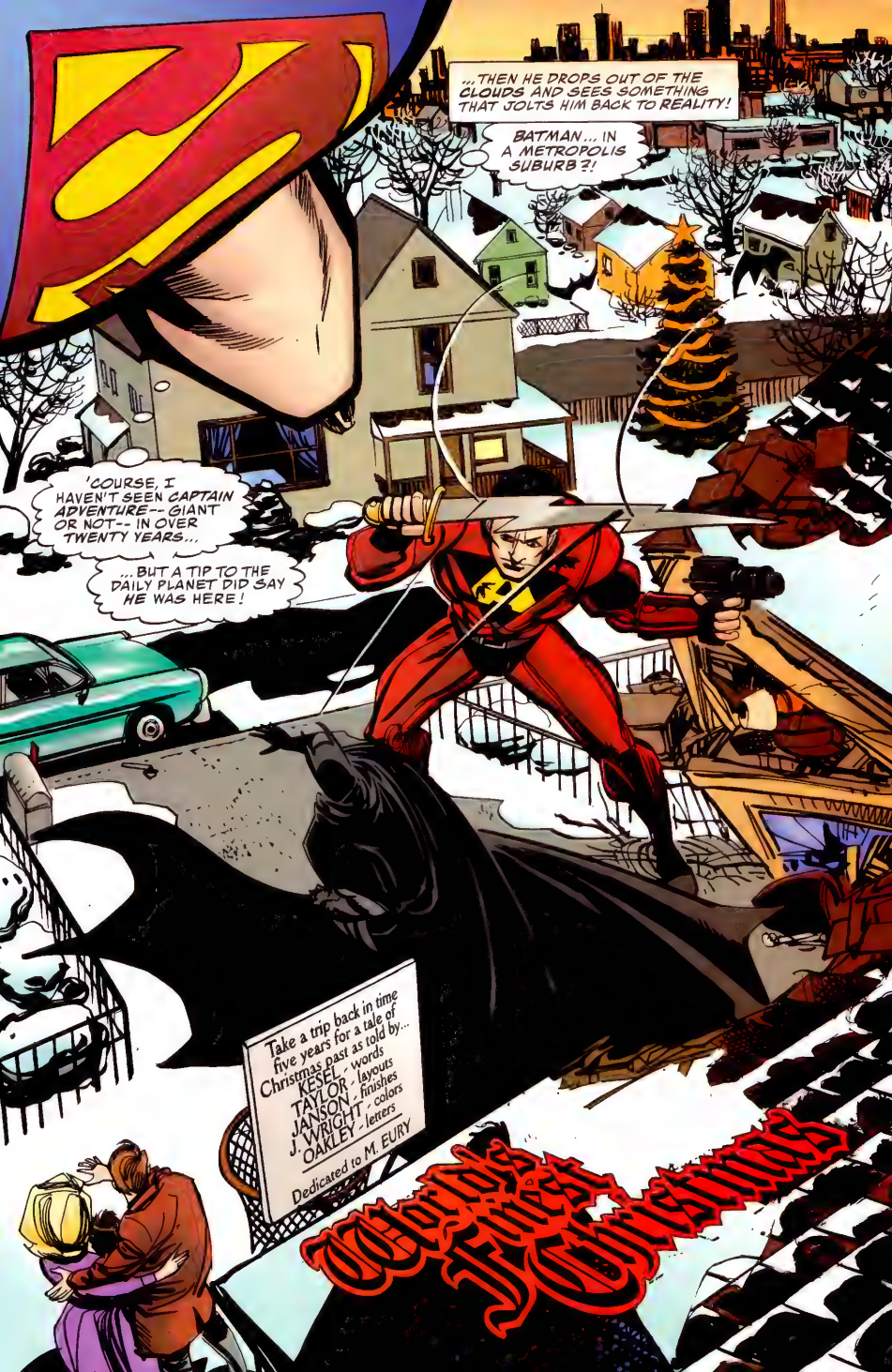
WOULD IT BE *BETTER* IF I *WRAPPED* YOUR GIFTS IN LEAD?

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HONEY.

NEXT WEEK:

ACTION #674 IS THE PROLOGUE TO OUR NEXT BLOCKBUSTER **SIX-PART** CROSSOVER IN THE **SUPER-BOOKS!** **"PANIC IN THE SKY"** FEATURING THE RETURN OF OLD FRIENDS, OLD VILLAINS, AND MORE GUEST-STARS THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT! NEED WE SAY **MORE?** WE **DO?** OKAY, THEN, HERE'S A LETTERS PAGE **WITH** NEXT ISSUE BOXES →

THE MEMORY FILLS HIS MIND...
WHY DON'T YOU OPEN THE FIRST PRESENT, CLARK?
CAN I, MA? REALLY?
YOU KNOW YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T KID YOU, SON-- NOT ON CHRISTMAS DAY!
NOW THAT ONE... hmm...
I DO BELIEVE THAT'S THE CASTOR OIL GIFT SET-- ISN'T IT, MARTHA?
YOU STOP THAT, JONATHAN KENT!
SHRIPP!
CAPTAIN ADVENTURE! IT'S CAPTAIN ADVENTURE! WAIT'LL PETE ROSS SEES THIS!
NOW, CLARK-- I'M AFRAID YOUR MA AND I DIDN'T GET YOU ANY OF THE DISGUISES YOU CAN PUT HIM IN--THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OR THOSE OTHER MASKED MEN...
AW, CAPTAIN ADVENTURE DOESN'T NEED A MASK, PA!
AWAAAY-- TO ADVENTURE!
THANKS!- THIS IS THE BEST PRESENT I EVER GOT!
AND YOU'RE THE BEST PRESENT WE EVER GOT, CLARK!
FOR AN INSTANT, HE'S TEN YEARS OLD AGAIN, IN HIS PARENTS' ARMS IN SMALLVILLE, KANSAS...


...THEN HE DROPS OUT OF THE CLOUDS AND SEES SOMETHING THAT JOLTS HIM BACK TO REALITY!
BATMAN... IN A METROPOLIS SUBURB?!
'COURSE, I HAVEN'T SEEN CAPTAIN ADVENTURE-- GIANT OR NOT-- IN OVER TWENTY YEARS...
...BUT A TIP TO THE DAILY PLANET DID SAY HE WAS HERE!
Take a trip back in time five years for a tale of Christmas past as told by...
KESEL - words
TAYLOR - layouts
JANSON - finishes
J. WRIGHT - colors
OAKLEY - letters
Dedicated to M. EURY
Batman's Finest Christmas

NGH!
TZOOM!
THINK I DIDN'T SEE YOU COMING, SUPERMAN? THINK I WASN'T WATCHING... WAITING FOR YOU?
YOU FACE CAPTAIN ADVENTURE NOW -- THE GREATEST TOY OF ALL TIME!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED-- MOVE!
B-BUT--
DON'T LOOK BACK, MRS. LATTEM! KEEP GOING AND I'LL--
OH, GOD!
SKRAAMSH!

--I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS TOYBOX TERRORIST.
DELUDED FOOL! YOU DON'T HAVE ONE-TENTH THE POWER OF CAPTAIN ADVENTURE!
CAPTAIN ADVENTURE ALWAYS RELIED ON HIS OTHER IDENTITY'S POWERS-- NEVER COULD HANDLE ANYTHING ON HIS OWN!
LIAR!
CAPTAIN ADVENTURE IS AN IDEAL HERO! ABLE TO DRAW ON A VAST ARRAY OF POWERS PERFECTLY SUITED TO HANDLE ANY...
tick tick tick tick
...SITUATION...?
BWOOM!

THIS... THIS WON'T STOP CAPTAIN ADVENTURE!
GIVE ME SAM LATTEM OR I VOW TO LEVEL THE ENTIRE SUBDIVISION WITH MY COSMIC RAY BLASTER!
C'MON, CAPTAIN-- THAT THING BARELY KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF ME!
AND HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED EVERY TIME YOU SHOOT OFF YOUR MOUTH LIKE THAT...
GHEK--!
CAN'T
STAND...
...IT'S LIKE SHOOTING YOURSELF IN THE FOOT?
TZOOM!
KRUMP!

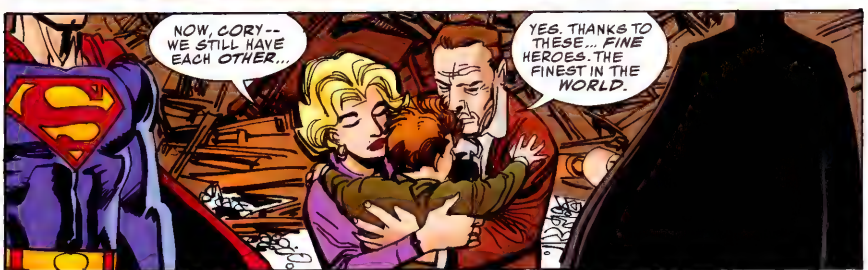
TKLEK
OH--!
THOSE... THOSE TWO DON'T PLAY NICE! THEY BROKE MY TOY!
WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY WITH THEM ANYMORE!
UT!
GAME'S OVER, SCHOTT.
GO TO JAIL. GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL.
SAME RULES AS LAST TIME, TOYMAN!
OH... H-E-- DOUBLE TOOTHPICKS!

--SAY YOU WORKED WITH TOYMAN, MR. LATTEM?
WELL, UM... NOT FOR YEARS, BUT... YES, WINSLOW SCHOTT TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT TOY-MAKING.
I FIGURED OUT HOW TO MODERNIZE ONE OF THE CLASSIC TOYS... OFFERED IT TO WINSLOW, BUT HE WASN'T INTERESTED.

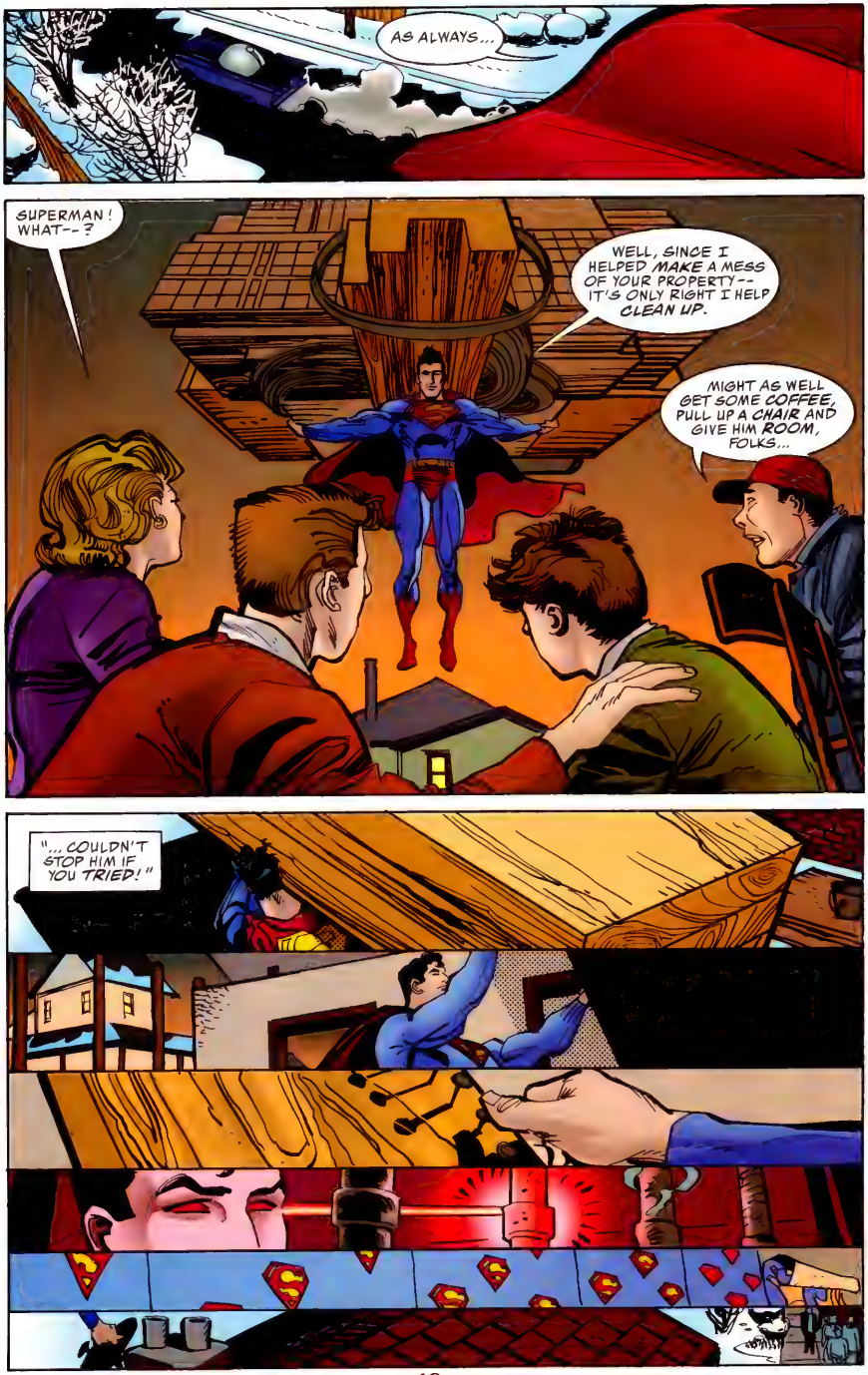
SO I STRUCK OUT ON MY OWN... SUNK ALL OUR SAVINGS INTO PROTO-TYPES...STARTED SHOPPING IT AROUND...
... WON'T SIGN A DEAL THIS YEAR. TOO CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS NOW, BUT...

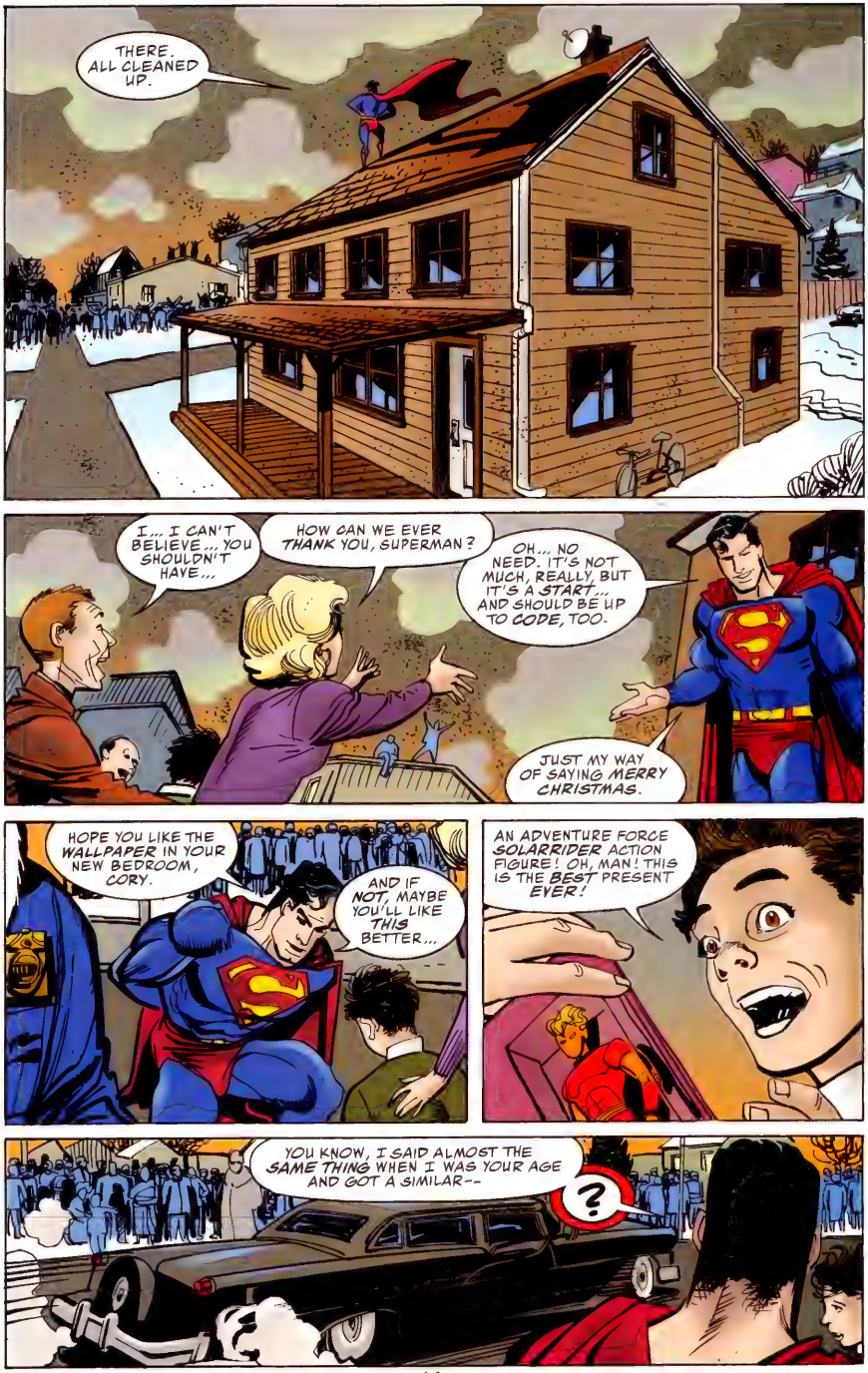
WELL, I'D HEARD WINSLOW HAD... GONE AROUND THE BEND, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D COME AFTER ME.
ALL BECAUSE HE THOUGHT I BETRAYED HIM AND HIS BELOVED TOYS BY WORKING ON SOMETHING NEW.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, huh?

WHAT CHRISTMAS, DAD? EXACTLY EVERYTHING WE HAD WAS TRASHED! NO HOUSE... NO CHRISTMAS TREE...
... NO ADVENTURE FORCE ACTION FIGURES UNDER THE TREE...


NOW, CORY-- WE STILL HAVE EACH OTHER...
YES. THANKS TO THESE... FINE HEROES. THE FINEST IN THE WORLD.

LEAVING SO SOON?
SCHOTT STOLE AN EXPERIMENTAL MICRO-PROCESSOR FROM WAYNETECH AND USED IT IN HIS ROBOT.
I TRACED IT, RETRIEVED IT. I'M DONE HERE.
BUT... IT'S CHRISTMAS. THIS FAMILY HAS NOTHING.
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING... GIVE THEM SOME SENSE OF HOPE.
THE BOY ISN'T HURT, HIS PARENTS ARE ALIVE -- THAT'S MORE THAN SOME PEOPLE CAN HOPE FOR.
EVERY-THING ELSE IS REPLACE-ABLE.
NOT IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR ENTIRE WORLD.
DO IT YOUR WAY, THEN...
...AND I'LL DO IT MINE.


AS ALWAYS...
SUPERMAN! WHAT--?
WELL, SINCE I HELPED MAKE A MESS OF YOUR PROPERTY-- IT'S ONLY RIGHT I HELP CLEAN UP.
MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME COFFEE, PULL UP A CHAIR AND GIVE HIM ROOM, FOLKS...
"...COULDN'T STOP HIM IF YOU TRIED!"


THERE. ALL CLEANED UP.
I... I CAN'T BELIEVE... YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE...
HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU, SUPERMAN?
OH... NO NEED. IT'S NOT MUCH, REALLY, BUT IT'S A START... AND SHOULD BE UP TO CODE, TOO.
JUST MY WAY OF SAYING MERRY CHRISTMAS.
HOPE YOU LIKE THE WALLPAPER IN YOUR NEW BEDROOM, CORY.
AND IF NOT, MAYBE YOU'LL LIKE THIS BETTER...
AN ADVENTURE FORCE SOLARRIDER ACTION FIGURE! OH, MAN! THIS IS THE BEST PRESENT EVER!
YOU KNOW, I SAID ALMOST THE SAME THING WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE AND GOT A SIMILAR--
?

MY, MY... HE WAS RIGHT. REBUILT FASTER THAN A TWINKLE IN ST. NICK'S EYE...
EXCUSE ME-- MR. LATTEM? ALFRED PENNYWORTH, REPRESENTING THE WAYNE FOUNDATION.
MR. WAYNE SENT ME THE MINUTE HE SAW YOUR LATEST PROTOTYPE. HE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER YOU A JOB DESIGNING TOYS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN.
YOUR ACCEPTANCE WOULD MAKE HIS CHRISTMAS COMPLETE, I ASSURE YOU.
I--I, UM--OF COURSE! IMMEDIATELY!
OH, I'M CERTAIN TOMORROW MORNING WILL BE QUITE ACCEPTABLE.
I ALSO HAVE A SMALL GIFT FOR YOUR SON, IF I MAY...?
THE ADVENTURE FORCE NIGHT SCOUT FIGURE! THANKS, MISTER!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS, MY BOY.
YOUR EMPLOYER'S VERY GENEROUS, MR. PENNYWORTH.
I DON'T THINK SOME PEOPLE REALIZE HOW COMPASSIONATE, UM, BRUCE WAYNE REALLY IS!
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR. BUT I ASSURE YOU...

"... EVER SINCE MISTER WAYNE WAS A CHILD...
WAYNE MANOR
"... NO ONE KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE NOTHING AT CHRISTMAS...
"...MORE DEEPLY THAN HE."
end

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 051 'Tis the Season

"All This ... And Lex Luthor II", first appeared in Action Comics issue #672, released October, 1991
Roger Stern (writer), Bob McLeod (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Denis Rodier (inker)

"Stormy Weather", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #7, released December 31, 1991
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"Shadows From the Past!", first appeared in Superman issue #63, released November, 1991
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dan Jurgens (inker)

"Purge", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #486, released November, 1991
Jerry Ordway (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Doug Hazlewood (inker)

"Friends in Need", first appeared in Action Comics issue #673, released November, 1991
Roger Stern (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Denis Rodier (inker)

"Power Trip!", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #8, released January 31, 1992
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Kieron Dwyer (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"Metropolis Mailbag", first appeared in Superman issue #64, released December, 1991
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker), Jackson Butch Guice (inker)

"Christmas in Suicide Slumberland", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #487, released December, 1991
Jerry Ordway (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Doug Hazlewood (inker)

"World's Finest Christmas", first appeared in DCU Holiday Bash III issue #1, released November, 1998
Chuck Dixon (writer), Devin Grayson (writer), Eric Luke (writer), Karl Kesel (writer), Mark Waid (writer), Scott Beatty (writer), Cedric Nocon (penciller), Craig Rousseau (penciller), Damion Scott (penciller), Dave Taylor (penciller), Enrique Quique Alcatena (penciller), Gordon Purcell (penciller), Joe Staton (penciller), Bill Sienkiewicz (inker), Danny Miki (inker), Enrique Quique Alcatena (inker), Jaime Mendoza (inker), Klaus Janson (inker), Mike Sellers (inker), Sean Parsons (inker)

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